



Film still, 'Stalker', 1979 film directed by Andrei Tarkovsky

“The nomad has a territory; he follows customary paths; he goes from one point to another; he is not ignorant of points (water points, dwelling points, assembly points, etc.). But the question is what in nomad life is a principle and what is only a consequence. To begin with, although the points determine paths, they are strictly subordinated to the paths they determine, the reverse happens with the sedentary. The water point is reached only in order to be left behind; every point is a relay and exists only as a relay. A path is always between two points, but the in-between has taken on all the consistency and enjoys both an autonomy and a direction of its own. The life of the nomad is the intermezzo. Even the elements of his dwelling are conceived in terms of the trajectory that is forever mobilizing them. The nomad is not at all the same as the migrant; for the migrant goes principally from one point to another, even if the second point is uncertain, unforeseen or not well localized. But the nomad only goes from point to point as a consequence and as a factual necessity: in principle, points for him are relays along a trajectory. [...]

Secondly, even though the nomadic trajectory may follow trails or customary routes, it does not fulfill the function of the sedentary road, which is to *parcel out a closed space to people*, assigning each person a share and regulating the communication between shares. The nomadic trajectory does the opposite, it *distributes people (or animals) in an open space*, one that is indefinite and noncommunicating.”<sup>1</sup>

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1. Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari. 1986. p.50-51. Nomadology: The War Machine. Semiotexte

DIP21 will focus on the notion of nomadism with respect to climate change, as well as the social, political and technological mutations that are occurring in the contemporary world.

Sedentarisation and power, historically, go hand in hand. When people settle they become productive, governed by the tacit regulations of participation in a collective society. In the fixed settlement, the construct of the state, the idea of the nation, the border and the homeland find their root. Within systems of capital, the sedentarisation of a given population therefore facilitates a collective increase in the accumulation of natural resources, the production of processed goods and the distribution of assets for economic gain.

Contemporary, globalised societies have coalesced around notions of economic deregulation and liberalism, pursuing the perpetual generation of capital under the promise of increasing flexibility and mobility for the individual. People and goods are supposed to move as freely and easily as one another – we can now move from country to country, rapidly change jobs as required and constantly modify our mechanisms of production. Some have been tempted to describe this condition as a new form of nomadism. But it has nothing to do with it.

Nomadism draws distinctions of territory that are unscripted by the borders of the state, fundamentally relying on an ability to adapt in different environments. Nomadic people share a common ground and an interwoven history – they understand how to live in many different places and the subtleties of how to negotiate with other societies that they encounter. Nomads know how to live together. However, this form of moving settlement is rapidly disappearing, in tandem with the erosion of hospitality, togetherness and collective freedoms.

Our cities are not suited for fugacity and transitory passage without economic gain. Authorities cannot stand freedom of movement. So, how can we make room for nomadism? How can we, as architects, act to make cities welcoming and adaptable again? These issues go far beyond questions of shelter and provision – the ontological dimension of architecture and the nature of the human being is at stake. Architecture does not stand in relation to an economic system, but rather to the body, to space, to time, movement and territory. We advocate an architecture of instability, for the nomads of tomorrow.

## TERM 1

### THE CASE STUDY

What is nomadism? Who is/ are the nomad(s) of the near future?

What is territory?

We will be aware of the past.

We will understand the present.

We are thinking about the future.

What is the relationship between time and nomadism?

What is the threshold between 'settled', 'semi-nomadic' and 'nomadic' states?

What is the temporal scale of the nomadic cycle?

Daily?

Seasonal?

Yearly?

## METHODOLOGY

Diploma 21 will interrogate these questions through the detailed analysis of a case study. The case study will form the framework for understanding the questions, topics and propositions set by the brief.

The case study is not a passive documentation of a found condition; we will examine every detail, but only to uncover hidden connections, misreadings and new insights.

This phase of rigorous research will built up a deep knowledge base and inform a critical position from which to embark on the project proposal.

1. COLLECT - cast a wide net to pool any and all relevant sources
2. DOCUMENT - draw what you uncover, record what you discover
3. EVALUATE - construct a point of no return

## TERM 1

### THE ARTIFACT

Manifesto

Anti-manifesto

Object

Sculpture

Tool

We will create artifacts to immerse ourselves in our near-future worlds.

The artifact exists as an autonomous entity.

As an art object that exists as an entity to itself, an independent object to be confronted, (and yet also references the world around it), the artifact will both articulate the project and be counter to it.

The artifact serves both as a provocation, challenging the case study, and as the genesis for the project.

“When other species have figured out a way to do something, they keep repeating it forever until changes in the context reinforce a different direction. Humans continuously imagine different ways even in the same context, to the point of malfunction. The human is the only species that has tools that don’t work”<sup>2</sup>

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2. Beatriz Colomina, Mark Wigley.2016. p.54. Are we human? Notes on an archaeology of design

## TERM 1 CALENDAR

WEEK 1 - Koyaanisqatsi, 1982\_film

Identify case study

WEEK 2 - Stalker, 1979\_film

Develop case study

WEEK 3 - 'How Grains Domesticated Us', SOAS, University of London, James C. Scott,\_lecture

Develop case study

WEEK 4 - 'The culture of self', 12th April 1983, UC Berkeley, Michel Foucault\_lecture

Develop case study

Workshop - mixed media

WEEK 5 - 'Qu'est-ce que l'acte de création', 1987, Gilles Deleuze\_lecture

Interim Jury

WEEK 6 - open week

Portfolio workshop

Digital tools workshop

WEEK 7 - Dogville, 2003\_film

Interrogate case study

WEEK 8 - Paris, Texas, 1984\_film

Interrogate case study

WEEK 9 - Wings of Desire, 1987\_film

Develop artifact

WEEK 10 - Gerry, 2002\_film

Develop artifact

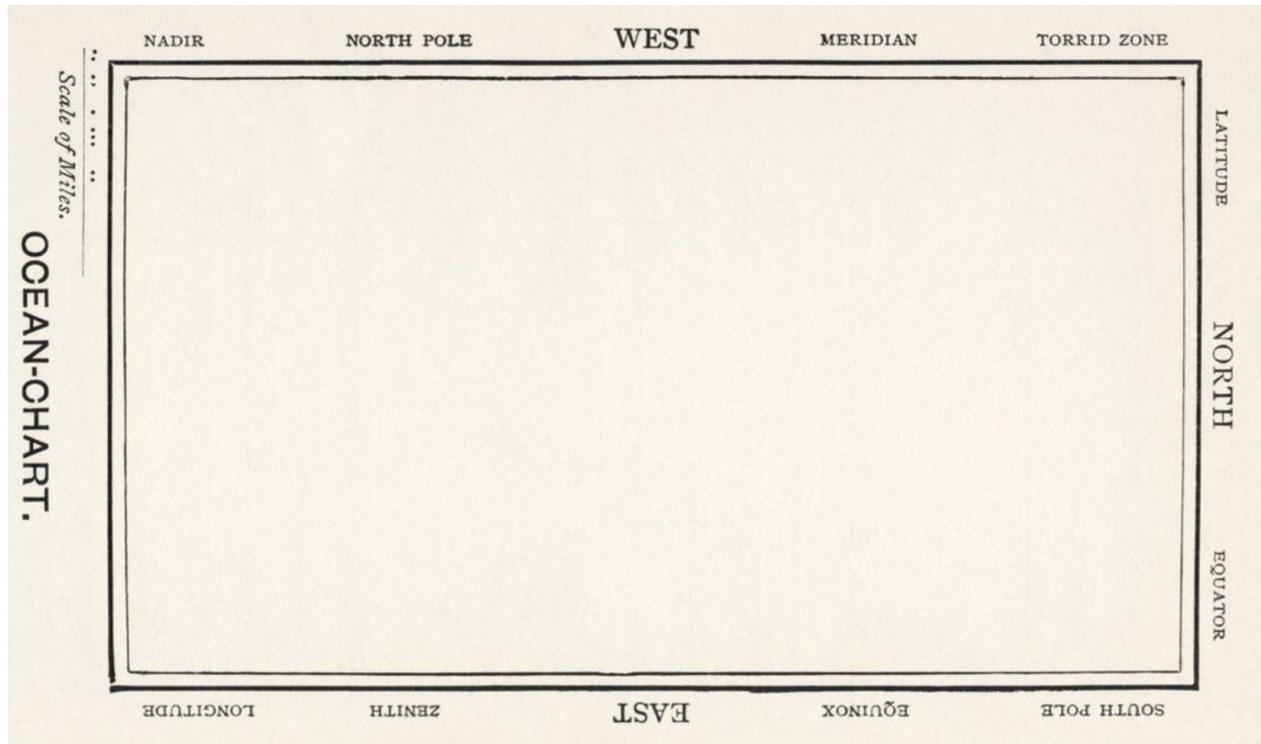
WEEK 11 - Easyrider, 1969\_film

Resolution of the artifact

WEEK 12

End of term jury

RESEARCH IN TRANSIT - PHASE I  
**THE UNIT TRIP**



Map of Nothing, Lewis Carroll, *The Hunting of the Snark*, 1876

Oman

/

UAE

DIP21 will travel to Arabia, present day Oman and UAE, to confront the landscapes of the desert and the 21st century metropolis.

This region has been home to nomadic people since before the early Islamic period.

The Duru, the Wahiba, the Jeneba, the Beit Kathir, the Mahra and the Harasiis inhabit the desert fringes spanning territories from Oman to the United Arab Emirates.<sup>3</sup>

We will construct our trip one day at a time, moving between our two reference points -

1. Muscat; 2. Abu Dhabi, soaking in the inbetween.

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3. <http://www.nomadsinoman.com/>, online resource by Dr Dawn Chatty, Professor Dawn Chatty, University Professor in Anthropology and Forced Migration and Director, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford

TERM 2  
THE PROJECT

Nomadism / Parasitism

Nomad / Parasite

Climate change is not a question of the future, it is happening right now. Humanity is confronted with fluctuating weather patterns, ever increasing pressure on resources and altered landscapes.

“Today is the tomorrow you were promised yesterday”<sup>4</sup>

Diploma 21 constructs fictional realities.

Building on the case study and the artifact, we will draft speculative proposals for the near future. We are not interested in the fantasy of the unknown, instead we will define, illustrate and understand hyper-specific contexts in which the work is situated.

#### METHODOLOGY

All forms of immersive media will be employed to articulate the architectural proposal.

Drawing will be the primary medium through which we will compose, test and nurture the project. Films, videos, audio, text and graphics will supplement large format drawings to describe and communicate the proposal.

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4. Quote from an artwork by Victor Burgin, 1976, photograph, ‘Today is the tomorrow you were promised yesterday’

## TERM 2 CALENDAR

WEEK 1 - Bellflower, 2011\_film

5th year TS pin up

Develop proposal

WEEK 2 - Mad Max, 1979\_film

Develop proposal

WEEK 3 - Mad Max 2, 1981\_film

Develop proposal

WEEK 4 - Lawrence of Arabia, 1962\_film

Interim jury

WEEK 5 - 7 days in transit

Unit trip I

WEEK 6 - Dawn of the dead, 2004\_film

Develop proposal

WEEK 7 - Solaris, 1972\_film

Develop proposal

WEEK 8 - THX 1138, 1971\_film

Final jury

Develop proposal

WEEK 9 - 5th year TS juries

Develop proposal

WEEK 10 - 4th year previews

WEEK 11 - 5th year previews

20.03 - 24.03 - 5 days in transit

Unit trip II

RESEARCH IN TRANSIT PHASE II  
**THE UNIT TRIP**



Architecture without architects, Bernard Rudofsky

Lisbon

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Porto

A few days between Lisbon and Porto to discuss, debate, question and articulate. Once again moving between cities, we will engage with institutions and galleries, architects and artists.

TERM 3

## **THE THESIS**

In term 3 we will arm ourselves with dense visuals and sharp arguments.

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## TECHNICAL STUDIES

Diploma 21 will follow Option 02 timetable for TS5.

At the end of Term 1, the artifact will serve as the origin point for the Technical Studies project, guiding the research question and agenda.

The development of the Technical Studies document will run parallel to the unit proposal, to be treated as dual methodologies applied to a single project.

## TERM 3 CALENDAR

WEEK 1 - TS 5 submissions

Thesis workshop - talk by invited guest (TBC) followed by quickfire student presentations and discussion

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4  
Final jury

WEEK 5

WEEK 6 - Diploma Committee

WEEK 7 - 4th Year Reviews

WEEK 8 - 5th Year Presentations

WEEK 9 - 5th Year RIBA part 2 External Examinations

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Are we human? / Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley

Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages. / Saskia Sassen

Space Settlements. / Fred Scharman

The road. / Cormac Mc Carty

Heterotopy. / Michel Foucault

Security, territory, population. / Michel Foucault

Temporary autonomous zone. / Akim Bey

Project of autonomy. / P.V. Aureli

The human condition. / Hannah Arendt

The social contract. / Jean Jacques Rousseau

Nomadology. / Deleuze & Guattary

Against the Grain./ James C. Scott