Changing populations, shifting borders, and uneven economic development—exacerbated by the explosion of migration and urbanization—have generated conflicts and conditions that question traditional architectural methods. In a milieu characterized by territorial and institutional deadlock, architects, urban researchers, and community activists increasingly must intervene in situations by “going beyond building.” This does not mean dispensing with the value of architecture per se, but rather acknowledging each situation’s unique complexity. This exhibition explores the original ways that these actors are taking up the challenge of designing the conditions from which new architectures can emerge. They are becoming activists, developers, facilitators of a more inclusive urban policy, as well as producers of unique urban research.

http://positioningpractice.us
http://positioningpractice.us/blog/
These new practitioners are notable for the emphasis they place on inventive, interdisciplinary economics of development that reach creatively across institutions, agencies, and jurisdictions to negotiate hidden resources in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

In the absence of large-scale public infrastructure projects in the United States, local initiatives are becoming newly dynamic arenas for the exploration and generation of new forms of sociability and activism. Through this expanded concept of architectural practice and its responsibilities, intractable problems can be addressed with an altered perspective.

We are also proposing that social, cultural and spatial boundaries be understood as a new framework defining architectural problems. Accordingly, we have identified a heterogeneous and dispersed series of practices that are empowered by the inventive ways they work and with whom they engage. The curatorial logic behind this project highlights the ways that architects, urban researchers, and activists reclaim the ability to shape community and the built environment. It is our hope that this taxonomy produces a new understanding of American architectural practice and potential forms of social participation.

We have selected sixteen diverse participants all of whom actively engage communities on various levels. To remain relevant, architecture must find ways to respond to the cultural fluidity, socio-economic challenges, and environmental rifts that define our times. In our exhibition, architecture is revealed as able to generate new forms of sociability and activism that move us beyond ideological polarization.
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: [Image]

The Edible Schoolyard [PCDC], a project begun in a San

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Il Heidelberg Project é una organizzazione
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La tradizionale simmetria assiale della cir-

a Detroit si dedica

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Buon Testo

The sixteen practitioners included, all of whom actively engage communities in their work, demonstrate multi-faceted responses to social and environmental issues.

Emesto Teddy Cruz, based in San Diego, California, is engaged in an ongoing exploration of the dynamics of urban conflict engendered by conditions on either side of the U.S.-Mexican border, from the affluence north of San Diego to homelessness and neglect in Tijuana. Straddling across the entire 60-foot façade and courtyard of the U.S. Pavilion, Teddy Cruz’s border fence becomes both a metaphorical and actual threshold for visitors to the exhibition. Through a photographic montage illustrating the 60 miles north and south of the fence that spans the U.S. border with Mexico at San Diego, this porous border becomes a graphic representation of the conditions and conflicts that have become both political and economic flashpoints.

The noted chef and restaurateur, Alice Waters, based in Berkeley, California, responded to the lack of nutritious food served in many public schools by developing The Edible Schoolyard, a project begun in a San Francisco Middle School, through which young students plant and tend a garden and use the produce to prepare their lunches and snacks. Through this project, students learn about the impact of food they consume, principles of ecology, and a healthy respect for living systems. Working in cooperation with the Yale Sustainable

Food Project, the U.S. Pavilion has developed a model garden based upon principles of the Edible Schoolyard, complete with instructions and signage made by these young California students.

The architect Deborah Gans, whose practice is in New York City, has responded to the need for new housing and the myriad circumstances (whether products of political upheaval, natural or man-made disaster) that people face in the relocation of habitation. The architect Deborah Gans, whose practice is in New York, responds to urban decay and abandonment by turning a derelict Detroit

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The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), and Project Row Houses, each confront issues of gentrification and urban decay through inventive social practice and community involvement. DCDC is exhibiting a set of conceptual models for collaborative actions on burnt-out houses in the neighborhood project, FireBreak, which highlights their strategy, called Many People and Many Actions. Project Row Houses demonstrates the proactive tenacity of Rick Lowe and his team of residents in the 1st Ward neighborhood of Houston, Texas, as they fend off commercial development to create homes for adaptation into community cultural facilities.

Laura Kurgan’s Spatial Information Design Lab uses complex mapping and animation to illustrate the relationship between demographics and the urban system. Ms. Kurgan’s project is a spatial analysis of the money spent on incarceration versus the investment in housing and neighborhood infrastructure in parts of New York City. Videos by the Center for Land Use Interpretation explore the path of waste in Los Angeles from curbside to landfill, and a double screen video program from the International Center for Urban Ecology follows the designer Kyong Park’s journey along The New Silk Road in South East Asia.

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), New York, constructs and diagrams the complex financial underpinnings and strategies of compromise that determine the construction of housing. A user-friendly interactive model illustrates the diversity of housing subsidies, while a dynamic rap video compilation explores the relationship between public housing and public perception. San Francisco-based Behr, a design collaborative, provides an example of that community work with the Panhandle Bandshell, a community theater built with car hoods, plastic water bottles and other post-consumer materials.

Alternative housing designs feature in the work of Design Corps, Studio 8’4’’ and the Rural Studio at Auburn University. These projects, represented through models and video presentations, exemplify some of the innovative approaches to building with communities as areas of extreme need that range from the rural poor in Hale County, Alabama, to migrant farmworkers in North Carolina, and tornado-affected residents of Greensburg, Kansas. The Floating Pool, a mobile swimming pool designed by Jonathan Kirschenfeld Associates, adaptively reuses a decommissioned cargo barge to bring summer recreation to underserved populations in New York City. Finally, the work of Smith and Others in San Diego is represented through a special video interview and model that demonstrates the way architects can become developers of their own projects, re-shaping the way the city grows and changes by emphasizing quality of life for residents over maximum profit for developers.

The installation of Into the Open: Positioning Practice in the shell of the U.S. Pavilion is itself designed as a space of productive community interaction, a space of social critique, and as a space of instruction. The traditional divided axial symmetry of the building’s circulation is reorganized into a circular flow by the addition of a continuous elliptical conference table, at which each exhibiting practice has a seat, starting outdoors in the garden and running thru each of the galleries. A continuous storyboard above this table displays how to implement techniques from the community transformations exhibited. Small groupings of comfortable seating provide relaxed conversation areas as well as settings to view the varied video programs and printed material produced by the exhibited practices.

Finally, in the Pavilion’s Rotunda visitors to the exhibition are invited to join the project’s blog at http://positioningpractice.us, to add their comments on the exhibition and their own views on the social, economic, and political issues that Into the Open: Positioning Practice explores.
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Shelter as City
Rifugio come Città
Gans Studio
Roll Out Houses

Gans Studio is devoted to rethinking how architecture can participate in the emergence of social forms. It focuses on extreme situations that also interest the general. It has designed housing and infrastructure for populations displaced by environmental and political disaster in Kosovo, New Orleans, and New York City.

1. Roll Out Plan House, 2004
2. Tent plan for better humanitarian situations, 2003/04

The Heidelberg Project, Detroit, Michigan, a non-profit founded by Tyree Guyton, is an outdoor art environment in the heart of an urban community. Residents and stakeholders come together through anti-based activities and programs to rebuild the structure and fabric of their under-resourced community, creating a way of living that is environmentally viable and inclusive.

1. Heidelberg Project
2. Community Partnerships
3. Heidelberg resident, Detroit, Michigan

Reclamation as Resistance
Riproporzione come Resistenza

Project Row Houses

Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas, develops housing, public space, facilities and programs for low to moderate-income residents to preserve and protect the historic character of the Third Ward. Unprecedented development in Houston has resulted in the demolition of blocks of single-family bungalows and the dislocation of residents.

1. A local Houston resident plays his saxophone as area homeowners burn to mark the other urban slash and burn transformation of the neighborhood. Nearly 25 such houses mysteriously burned down in the northern Third Ward.

2. Residents, aided by their local state representative, created the Third Ward Preservation Alliance to actively protest and push back against the gentrification in the Third Ward.

3. FireBreak is a series of guerrilla insertions that investigate “shrinkage” and “decay” as not problems but as opportunities.

The Heidelberg Project
Collage as Remedy
Collage come Remedio
The Heidelberg Project

The Heidelberg Project, bearing the name of the street on which it exists, was started in 1986 by Tyree Guyton. He was assisted by his grandchild, Sam (Grendel) Mackey (deceased), and his former wife, Karen Guyton. Tyree was raised on Heidelberg Street and, at the age of 12, witnessed the tragic office of the Detroit riot—from which he claims the City of Detroit has never recovered. Through once racially integrated, many neighborhoods have become segregated urban ghettos characterized by poverty, abandonment, and despair.

1. The Heidelberg Project is located in the center of one of America’s most economically depressed neighborhoods. The City of Detroit, once known for its teeming energy, has been left with abandoned automobiles and empty lots.

2. Each column contains a different meaning to the community, and each area is continually being reconstructed as a shared environment. The collaboration between society and the community has been a key principle of the project.

3. Despite numerous accolades, the city domesticated parts of The Heidelberg Project in 1991 and again in 1999. Ironically, the abandoned truck on the photograph shown here was left untouched while the building behind it was demolished.

In response to the gentrification of the area, Project Row House assembled the Row House District Collaborative, a group of artists and experts within and outside the Third Ward, to understand the community and its future. The collaborative drafted a plan that preserves and protects existing families while embracing diverse new and returning residents to invest in our community.

1. Early row homes were undertaken by local artists and residents to reclaim the neighborhood. Eventually PRH created a sister organization, the Row House Community Development Corporation (RHDCD) to further this initiative.

2. In the Body Bag project, the entire exterior of a burned house on the west side of Detroit was wrapped in 1070 linear feet of clear plastic in a collaboration between the Design Center and the Woodbridge Community Development Organization. It marked the dedication of new affordable housing on the site by the development organization.

3. The Urban Re-Veiling project was a collaboration between the University of Michigan Architecture Program and the National Park Service. The University's students and faculty formed the Rice Building Workshop (RBW) to design and build homes using tarps to transform the low-income communities. The project went on to receive an award from the Woodbridge Community Development Organization for "the creative integration of public visual arts and community wrap."
The Heidelberg Project is a Detroit, Michigan, non-profit founded by Tyree Guyton, is an outdoor urban environment in the heart of an urban community. Residents and stakeholders come together through art-based activities and programs to rebuild the structure and fabric of their under-resourced community, creating a way of living that is meaningfully virtual and inclusive.

The Heidelberg Project, founded by Tyree Guyton, is one open art project-complex. It’s all about, in a question of its history. Residents and stakeholders participate in the project by creating an environment that demonstrates the potential that arises from collaboration of neighborhood residents. The project is a vision of a transformation of a town that is meaningful and inclusive.

A local Houston resident plays his saxophone as area house burn to mark the other untold urban tragedies that are hidden in the neighborhood. Nearly 25 such houses mysteriously burned down in the northern Third Ward during the year 2004, and the families who have lost their homes are still searching for answers. Residents, aided by their local state representative, created the Third Ward Preservation Alliance to actively protest and push back against the gentrification in the Third Ward.

The FireBreak Hay House, a large scale open air installation in the heart of the Third Ward, provides opportunities for the community to actively protest and push back against the current wave of mass gentrification in the neighborhood. FireBreak is a series of guerrilla insertions that investigate “shrinking” and “decay” as not problems but opportunities.

In response to the gentrification of the area, Project Row House assembled the Row House District Collaboratives, a group of resident artists and experts within and outside of the Third Ward, to contain the community’s future. The collaborative drafted a plan that protects and preserves existing families while attracting diverse new and returning residents to invest in our community.

The Heidelberg Project, using the name of the street on which it stands, was started in 1986 by Tyree Guyton. He was assisted by his grandmother, Susan (Stevens) Guyton (decoupled), and his former wife, Karen Guyton. Tyree was raised on Heidelberg Street and, at the age of 12, witnessed the tragic offisiice of the Detroit riots—from which he claims the City has never recovered. Through once racially integrated, many neighborhoods have become segregated urban ghettos characterized by poverty, abandonment, and despair.

The Heidelberg Project provides the name for the street on which it stands. In 1987, the artist of Tyree Guyton and Susan Stevens (now decoupled) and a diverse range of Detroitians (there were both professionals and amateurs) decided to form a project to prevent the abandonment and degradation of historic neighborhoods in Detroit. The group, in various forms, has been active ever since.

The Heidelberg Project has recognized as the third most vibrant cultural tourist site in Detroit with over 275,000 visitors annually.

The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) is a community-based design center that focuses on enhancing local quality of life through design. DCDC works with residents to design and build new housing units that complement the historic context. The collaborative was recently awarded one of five national NCARB Prizes for “creative integration of practice and education in the academy.”

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A house can be rebuilt around the displaced “roll-out” house. One column holds a ceiling, and the other a kitchen. Three hollow columns of various materials can support a roof or even a second floor. They also make possible a domestically scaled infrastructure of waste, water, or heat. The “roll-out” house can also be assembled in larger formations to cultivate the structure of a town. A physical and social infrastructure emerges according to new principles of “roll-out” housing.

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Il International Center for Urban Ecology è un laboratorio itinerante per le città future. I loro progetti sono un programma di video da visionare a bordo dell’autobus.

Le visite in autobus prevedono un'intera giornata di eventi con numerose visite, conferenze in loco e formazione per programmi di video. Il Panhandle Bandshell è un progetto di collaborazione tra progettisti, designer e attivisti con sede a San Francisco e attivo in diverse aree della città. Il Panhandle Bandshell Project è un’initiativa di arte pubblica creativa con materiali di riciclo per costruire un luogo libero e accessibile agli artisti, rispettando le norme e le regole della comunità. Il Panhandle Bandshell è stato realizzato per essere una struttura completamente modulare, per poter facilmente rinnovare, trasformare e miniaturizzare.
Il Progetto Panhandle Bandshell è un’installazione d’arte pubblica costruita con materiali di riciclo e di riutilizzo. Rebar e altri collaboratori hanno raccolto e risciacquato centinaia di circuiti integrati e di bottiglie di plastica, e le hanno utilizzati per creare una struttura modulare. Questo progetto dimostra come l’ingegnosità, le esperienze creative e l’uso di materiali riciclati possano essere usati per creare opere d’arte significative.

La Panhandle Bandshell è un progetto di Panhandle Bandshell Project, un’organizzazione che promuove l’utilizzo di materiali riciclati e sostenibili. Il progetto ha lavorato con i parchi pubblici e le comunità locali per creare spazi pubblici e culturali sostenibili. L’obiettivo è quello di promuovere l’utilizzo dei materiali riciclati per creare spazi pubblici e culturali, sostenendo la creazione di spazi pubblici sostenibili e culturali.

Robar è un collaboratore del progetto, e prende parte attivamente alla creazione dei progetti sostenibili. L’idea di Robar è quella di utilizzare materiali riciclati e sostenibili per creare spazi pubblici e culturali, sostenendo la creazione di spazi pubblici sostenibili e culturali.

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Dissemination as Revelation
Diffusion as Resilience

the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

The Subsidized Landscape

CUP brings together art and design professionals with community-based advocates and researchers to create projects ranging from high school curricula to educational exhibitions. Their public programs mix design, research, politics, and entertainment to connect people who are usually kept far apart.

Il Centro Urban Pedagogy (CUP) raccoglie artisti e designatori con esperti nei campi della comunità, organizzazioni e ricercatori per creare progetti che vanno dai corsi di scuola media ai, progetti educativi. Le loro programmi pubblici si mescolano design, ricerca, politica e intrattenimento per connettere persone che normalmente restano lontane.

In 2002 at City-as-School High School, a public school in Manhattan, students investigated how New York City deals with its garbage. Youth met face-to-face with people who make decisions that affect their lives—government officials, private businesses, Grazie alla partecipazione di nuovi gruppi culturali e sociali, essi hanno mostrato l'importanza della consultazione pubblica e il potenziamento di gruppi e organizzazioni minoritari.

Nel 2002 a City-as-School High School, una scuola pubblica a Manhattan, gli studenti hanno esplorato come New York City gestisce la spazzatura. I giovani hanno incontrato i responsabili di decisioni che influenzano la loro vita—funzionari pubblici, imprenditori privati, e hanno mostrato l'importanza della consultazione pubblica.

David Smith and Others have helped to transform the city of San Diego into an epicenter of alternative housing prototypes produced by collaborative groups of architects acting as developer-builders. They are committed to producing alternative densities, inclusive of diverse economic types and types of dwelling.

David Smith e altri hanno aiutato a trasformare la città di San Diego in un centro per la produzione di modelli di alloggio alternativo prodotti da gruppi di architetti che lavorano in collaborazione come architetti-sviluppatori. Si impegnano a creare densità alternative che includano vari tipi di abitazioni.
Dissemination as Revelation

Diffusion as Realization

the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

The Subsidized Landscape

CUP brings together art and design professionals with community-based advocates and researchers to create projects ranging from high school murals to educational exhibitions. Their programs prompt design, research, politics, and entertainment to connect people who are usually kept far apart.

Il Centro per la Pedagogia Urbana riunisce professionisti dell’arte e del design con sostenitori e ricercatori delle comunità per creare progetti che vanno dal murale di scuola alla mostra educativa. I programmi promuovono il design, la ricerca, la politica, l’entertainment, e conciliano le persone che spesso sono distanti.

In 2002 at City-as-School High School, a public school in Manhattan, students investigated how New York City deals with its garbage. Youth met face-to-face with people who make decisions that affect their lives—government officials, city planners, garbage barricades, trash disposal companies, and neighborhood activists—studied garbage technologies such as sanitary landfills and waste-to-energy incinerators, and created a multimedia installation called New York City Garbage Machine (Macchina della spazzatura della città di New York).

Nel 2002 al City-as-School High School, una scuola pubblica a Manhattan, i studenti hanno indagato su come New York City affronta il suo rifiuto. I giovani si sono incontrati con le persone che fanno le scelte che influenzano la loro vita—ufficiali governativi, architetti del settore, barriere per il rifiuto, società di smaltimento, e attivisti nella comunità—hanno studiato la tecnologia del trasloco sanitario e delle inceneritrici a energia da rifiuti, e hanno creato un’installazione multimediale chiamata New York City Garbage Machine (Macchina della spazzatura della città di New York).

The Subsidized Landscape (2003-05) includes photomontages, texts, and an interactive model that illuminate the complex workings of housing subsidies.

The Subsidized Landscape (2003-05) include fotografie montate, testi, e un modello interattivo che illuminano il complesso funzionamento dei sussidi per l’edilizia residenziale.

Conversations with farmworkers, community members, government regulators, and service agencies led Design Corps to recognize a need for improved bathroom facilities at labor camps. An estimated 12,471 migrant workers in North Carolina live in housing without adequate plumbing. Due in part to these unregulated conditions, agricultural workers are forty times more likely to have Tuberculosis. Furthermore, pollution of groundwater from improperly disposed septic systems poses huge risks to the entire community. The implementation of new bathroom units not only improves conditions for the workers who use them but also affects the health of the entire community.

Conversazioni con i lavoratori agricoli, i membri della comunità, i regolatori governativi, e le agenzie di servizi hanno portato Design Corps a riconoscere la necessità di migliorare le strutture igieniche nei campi lavorativi. L’incalcolabile numero di lavoratori migranti in Carolina del Nord vivono in abitazioni senza adeguato impianto igienico. In parte a causa di queste condizioni non regolamentate, i lavoratori agricoli sono quattro volte più propensi a contrarre Tuberculosi. Inoltre, la contaminazione del substrato acquifero da sistemi igienici disposti impropriamente pone gravi pericoli per l’intero comunità. L’implementazione di nuovi impianti igienici non solo migliora le condizioni per i lavoratori che li utilizzano ma anche influisce sulla salute dell’intera comunità.

This manufactured Migrant Housing “camp” in Adams County, Pennsylvania, is intended for use by four single male workers who come to Pennsylvania to pick apples, peaches, and cherries from August through October. Being a migrant is not assumed to be a negative characteristic; many workers come to make some income through hard work, and then return home. The units dimension allow for rent paid as well as effective, natural cooling. Hinged shutters, like those of Pennsylvania tobacco farms, face west and create privacy.

This manufactured Migrant Housing “camp” nella Contea di Adams, Pennsylvania, è progettata per quattro lavoratori singoli maschili che vanno in Pennsylvania a raccogliere mele, pesche, ciliegie da agosto a ottobre, è progettata per quattro persone. La condizione di migrante non è considerata un carattere negativo; molti lavoratori si recano in Pennsylvania per guadagnare un po’ di denaro attraverso il lavoro duro, e poi rientrano a casa. Le dimensioni dei locali consentono di pagare il noleggio, e anche di godere di un clima fresco. I vani di tenuta, come quelli delle tenute del tabacco del Pennsylvania, si aprono verso ovest e creano delle zone private.

The deviation from one of the most active hurricane scenarios on record in Florida has complicated the lives of approximately 300,000 migrant farm workers. Their annual family income does not exceed $10,000 per year and affordability housing is either severely limited or restricted to backwoods mobile homes: The hurricane exacerbated the housing shortage and limited employment opportunities due to extreme crop damage. Florida Legal Services has a team of lawyers working with Backwoods Design Corps, in consultation with migrant farmworkers, to design a manufactured housing unit specifically designed for migrant workers. The design team must work on improving living conditions for up to 10,000 families in the face of the devastation caused by hurricanes.

Il cambiamento da uno dei più attivi scenari di uragano nella storia della Florida ha complicato la vita di circa 300.000 lavoratori agricoli migranti. Il reddito annuo della famiglia non supera i 10.000 dollari, e l’accesso alloggi economici è tanto limitato quanto restrittivo nelle zone rurali. L’uragano ha composto la situazione di mancanza di abitazioni e di un’occupazione limitata. Florida Legal Services ha un team di avvocati che lavorano con Backwoods Design Corps, in consultazione con i lavoratori agricoli migranti, per progettare un’unità abitativa prefabbricata ideata appositamente per resistere agli uragani e soddisfare le necessità di abitazioni e di un’occupazione delle famiglie agricole. Il team di progettazione deve lavorare per migliorare le condizioni di vita per 10.000 famiglie in presenza della devastazione causata dagli uragani.

Recreation as Infrastructure

Activity Recreative as Infrastructure

Jonathan Jirschenfeld Associates

The Floating Pool

New York City at the turn of the century had as many as fifteen floating bathhouses moved along the East and Hudson rivers. They were rectangular structures on piers with changing rooms on the pier. They were tied up to existing piers during the summer, usually near the tenement districts, and provided an opportunity for the public to bath and learn to swim.

New York alla fine dell’ultimo secolo ne aveva fino a quindici bagni galleggianti a cavallo tra East e Hudson. Erano strutture rettangolari poste sugli piloni con cabine per cambiarsi appoggiate al molo. Si fermavano durante il mese estivo nei pressi dei quartieri di case popolari, e offrivano l’opportunità ai cittadini di prendersi il bagno.

Impressed by these historical floating bathhouses, the Nagrazione Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, commissioned a new type of movable swimming pool facility. The pool complex, built as the adaptive reuse of a decommissioned cargo barge, was constructed using conventional shipyard technology. The pool was hollowed out of the existing hull and a reconfigurazione della coda del mercantile, ad una cabina per cambiarsi alla superficie. Il bordo del molo, costituito da un tavolato in legno, offriva l’opportunità ai cittadini di prendersi il bagno.

Floating Pool Lady opened in the summer of 2007 at P&J 4 in Brooklyn, hosting over 50,000 swimmers during its first season. It was built docked at the Bromo and integrated into the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of New York.

Floating Pool Lady (Giovane fondazione Nagrazione) è nata nell’estate del 2007 a P&J 4 a Brooklyn e ha ospitato oltre 50.000 nuotatori nella sua prima stagione. Costruita a fiordo nel molo, è stata integrata nel Dipartimento Parco e Recreazione della città di New York.

Public pool in New York City operated on Community Board map, overview on medium income map.

Gli impianti fluttuanti sono stati creati per garantire un’accesso immediato all’acqua e ai servizi ricreativi che potevano essere usati non solo come progettisti, ma anche come sponsor e costruttori delle stesse. 

Architect as Developer

Architetto come Imobiliarista

Smith and Others

Smith and Others have helped to transform the city of San Diego into an epicenter of alternative housing prototypes produced by collaborative groups of architects acting as developer-builders. They are committed to producing alternative densities, inclusive of diverse economic types and forms of dwelling.

Smith e altri collaborativi hanno portato la città di San Diego a diventare un epicentro di progetti di abitazioni alternative prodotti da gruppi di architetti collaborativi che agiscono come sviluppatori. Essi sono impegnati a creare densità alternative, inclusiva di diversi tipi e forme di abitazione.
Building as Learning
Construire comme Conscienza

Studio 504

Studio 504 is a design/build program that provides students with the opportunity to design and develop affordable and sustainable prefabricated buildings.

Students explore architectural solutions that reclaim, blight, and environmentally challenged neighborhoods in Kansas.

"We engaged in a process of design-thinking that allowed the clients to express their ideas about community, place and culture, and the designers to respond to those ideas," said Todd Arkelson, program manager for architecture at the University of Kansas.

The town of Greensburg, Kansas was destroyed when a major tornado hit in the middle of the night on May 4, 2007. Stretching 1.7 miles wide, the tornado took 11 lives, destroyed nearly 1,500 homes, and caused over 1.1 billion dollars in damage.

Studio 504 proposed a collaborative cultivation strategy for the construction and delivery of a sustainable, visionary pre-fabricated arts and culture building. The building was constructed, delivered and completed for the one-year anniversary of the tornado that devastated Greensburg. The building was produced in a large warehouse, and then deconstructed and shipped in modules to Greensburg.

Studio 504 projects are funded entirely through the efforts of its student developers. For over twelve years, Studio 504 has implemented the success of its students as a model to other schools interested in sustainable architecture.

Garden as Pedagogy
Giardinismo come Pedagogia

The Edible Schoolyard
Edible Schoolyard

Edible education is a growing movement in the United States. School gardens have been blooming across the country, from school yards through city parks.

The Edible Schoolyard, begun by Alice Waters, integrates gardening and cooking into the daily activities of the King Middle School in Berkeley, CA. Across the country, students in the Yale Sustainable Food Project direct a sustainable dining program, manages an organic farm on campus, and supports student research projects.

By gathering people around shared food, shared work, and shared inquiry, the Yale Sustainable Food Project fosters a culture that describes meaning and pleasure from the connections among people, land, and food. Students learn to engage with food, agriculture, and sustainability in integral parts of their everyday life, and graduate with the knowledge, strength, and vision to make meaningful changes in their lives and in others.

In 2006, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, the Edible Schoolyard and the Yale Sustainable Food Project created a model schoolyard garden on the Washington DC National Mall. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Tom Harkin, and Senator Susan Braun Katzman joined other policy-makers to discuss the National School Lunch Initiative, a proposal for a garden and lunch program that would inspire change in every public school across the country.

Encroachment as Practice
Violenza come Pratica

Estudio Teddy Cruz (ETC)
Radicalizing the Local

The work of Estudio Teddy Cruz is centered at the border between San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico, and emerges out of the particularities of this cross-cultural territory. The practice focuses on housing and its relationship to alternative land use policies, modes of scalability, and economic processes.

A 60 linear-mile section cutting across the El-Juanos-San Diego border wall, at the most trafficked border checkpoint in the world, contains the most dramatic issues currently facing the Administration's Amenity of architectural practice. This trans-border 'cuff' begins 30 miles north of the border, in the periphery of San Diego and ends 90 miles south of the border, at the edges of Tijuana. We can find along this section’s trajectory a series of collisions between natural and artificial ecologies, top-down development and bottom-up organization, transforming this border region into a laboratory in which to reflect on the current politics of migration, labor, and surveillance, the tensions between sprawl and density, formal and informal urbanizations, wealth, and poverty.

This transnational section is emblematic of the search for a practice of intervention that engages spatial, territorial, and environmental conditions across critical thresholds, whether global border zones or the local sectors of conflict generated by the politics of discriminating access and economic urban development behind the remnant privatization of the contemporary city. The radicalization of the local can reveal territorial conflict as the operational tool to transform contemporary architectural practice. In other words, no intervention into the territory can begin without first exploring political jurisdiction and conditions of ownership. Who owns the resources? Whose territory is it?

Radicalizing the Local was inspired by a series of border tours developed by Teddy Cruz in collaboration with entraril/San Diego/Tijuana.

Radicalizing the Local: 60 Linear Miles of Trans-Border Urban Conflict

1. Line Mier’s series of TRANS Border urban Conflict - San Diego Project
Building as Learning - Contruzioni come Conoscenza

Studio 504

Sustainable Prototype for Greensburg, Kansas

Studio 504 is a design/build program that provides students with the opportunity to design and develop affordable and sustainable pre-fabricated buildings. Students explore architectural solutions that reclaim forgotten, blighted, and environmentally challenged neighborhoods in Kansas.

The town of Greensburg, Kansas was destroyed when a major tornado hit in the middle of the night on May 4, 2007. Stretching 1.7 miles wide, the tornado took 14 lives, destroyed nearly 3,200 homes, and caused over 1.1 billion dollars in damage.

Studio 504 proposed a collaborative collective in the construction and delivery of a sustainable, visionary, pre-fabricated arts and culture building. The building was constructed, delivered and completed for the one-year anniversary of the tornado that devastated Greensburg. The building was produced in a large warehouse, and then deconstructed and shipped in modules to Greensburg.

Roughly one-third of the region’s residents live below the poverty level and more than one quarter of the population is currently receiving food subsidies from the government. The percentage of unemployed residents, at 15.1%, is more than double the average for the state.

Students are invited each year to learn the unique university environment and take up residency in Hale County. Through the context-based living model, the students join a poverty-stricken region and “sharing the dream” with a housing client who lives far below the poverty level.

Samuel Moskowitz conceived the studio and current director, Andrew Freer, has built upon its founding principles which emphasize the use of innovative materials and construction techniques in an effort to empower individuals, stabilize families, and strengthen communities. The Rural Studio has built over 75 houses and other structures.

By gathering people around shared food, shared work, and shared inquiry, Studio 504 students learn to engage in meaningful conversations with their neighbors, making the architecture and design of the buildings a means of creating change in blighted neighborhoods throughout Kansas City and Lawrence.

Rural Studio contributes to the development of rural Alabama by providing dignified, community-based housing and municipal structures that mitigate the effects of a poverty-stricken region. Students are taught an ethic of service and engagement, and work closely with the client and local welfare agencies.

In Rural Studio, students will engage in hands-on studio work on projects designed for the Hale County Humane Society to oversee and sustain the shelter.

The Hale County Animal Shelter was undertaken in part to suit Alabama laws requiring that every county provide a shelter to humbly regulate domestic animal populations. An important aspect of the project was the formation of the Hale County Humane Society to oversee and sustain the shelter. The large metal structure is also raised from the ground, so natural airflow via breezeway can provide cooling for the building.

Encroachment as Practice - Violenza come Pratiche

Estudio Teddy Cruz (ETC)

Localizing the Radical: 60 Linear Miles of Trans-Border Urban Conflict

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Los estudios de Ecuadur y Tijuana son el lugar de contacto entre las economías de desarrollo y las economías de consumo que se sostienen a través de la matriz de la economía global. Estos espacios son la base de un nuevo modelo educativo que intenta, al final, transformar lo que entendemos como modelos de educación y cultura. El Estudio Teddy Cruz se basa en una serie de divisiones para hospedar perros y gatos.

The Hale County Humane Society to oversee and sustain the shelter.

Rural Studio contributes to the development of rural Alabama by providing dignified, community-based housing and municipal structures that mitigate the effects of a poverty-stricken region.

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Students at The Edible Schoolyard learn how to grow, harvest, and cook nutritious seasonal produce; they shape and paint buildings, attend school, crop compost, and harvest fresh fruits, and vegetables. These students learn entrepreneurialism as they make the connection between what they eat and where it comes from, and the program forms the basis of a new model of education, intended, ultimately, to revolutionize both education and the national school meal program. For more information about the Edible Schoolyard, please visit www.chapmanschoolfoundation.org

The Edible Schoolyard Connecticut is located in the town of New Haven, CT, the Yale Sustainable Food Project directs a sustainable dining program, manages an organic farm on campus, and support students in designing and overseeing school gardens.

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