



# MILITARIZATION *of* MEMORY

*Ho Chi Minh's mummy-stem,  
the Mausoleum-Laboratory &  
the architectures of afterlife*

GSAPP ADV VI Studio, Cultural Agents Orange  
Critic: Mark Wasiuta, TA: Jarrett Ley  
*Project by: Grace Alli*

ACADEMIC WORK

Columbia University GSAPP  
M.Arch

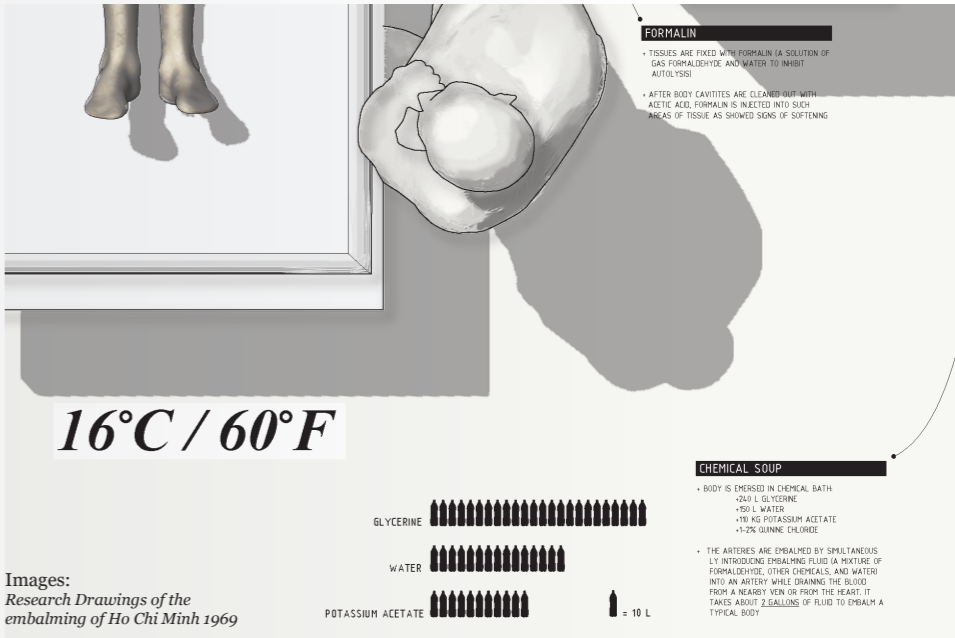
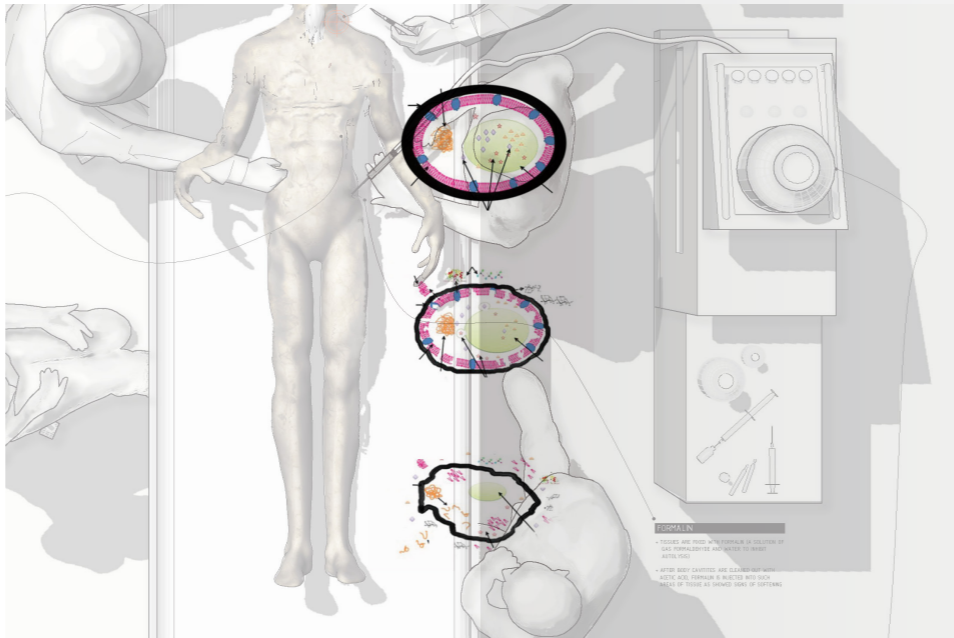
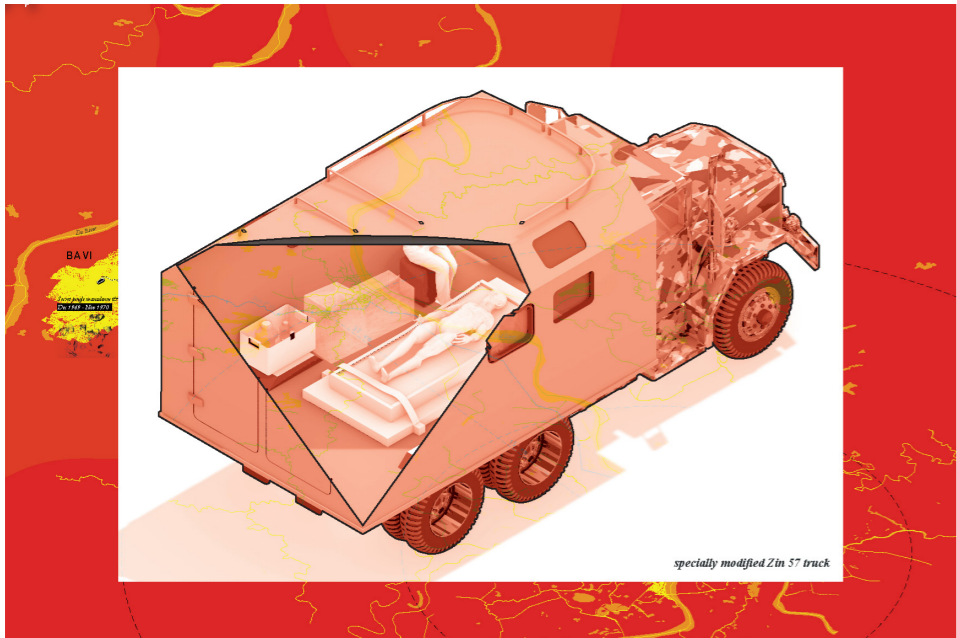
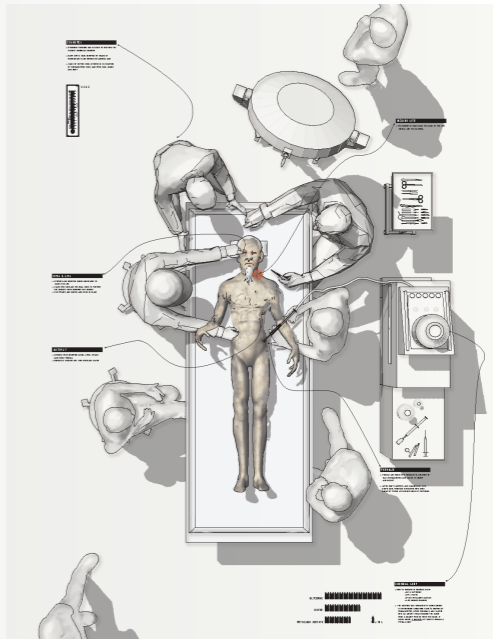
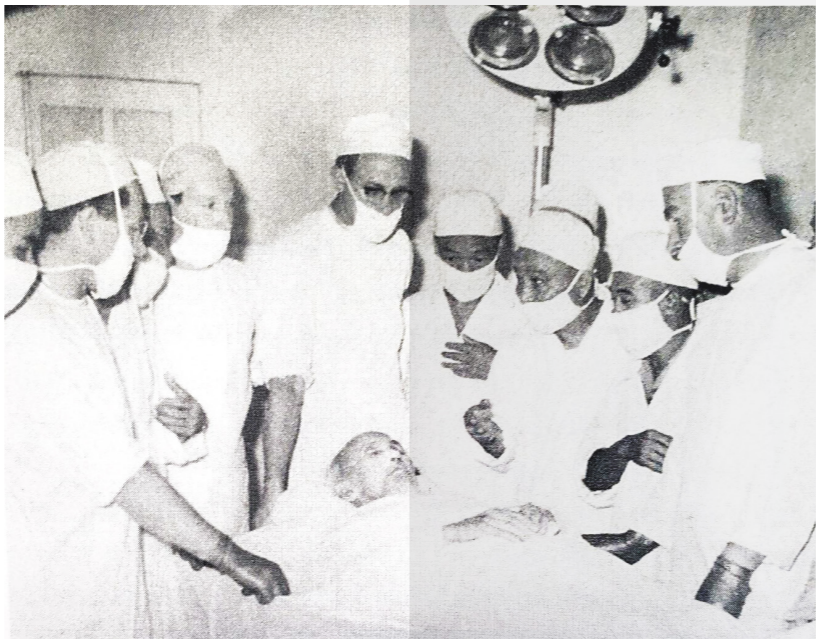
Studio\_Cultural Agents Orange  
(Vietnam War)

ADV Studio VI  
Spring 2020

Critic: Mark Wasiuta  
TA: Jarrett Ley

Individual Project:  
*Militarization of Memory: Ho' Chi Minh's  
mummy-stem, the mausoleum-labratory, and  
the architectures of afterlife*

Image:  
*Edited Photo of Ho's embalmed body, placed  
under glass, and displayed at the Ho Chi  
Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi*



## BODY-POLITIC

*In 1965, at the height of the Vietnam War, the North Vietnamese Politburo secretly declared Ho Chi Minh's body national property.*

*In Ho Chi Minh's Final Testament, he requested that his remains be cremated, stating "There should be no stone or bronze statue, but rather a small ceramic urn on tree-lined hills for visitors" Denying his final requests, the party began preparations for the preservation of his body through a series of secret military operations.*

*A Special Committee of Vietnamese Medical Experts was sent to the Soviet Union, where they met the scientists of the notorious embalming laboratory—the Lenin Lab. Here, they engaged in intensive and practical research learning the painstaking procedures and techniques of embalming. By the time Ho died in 1969, everything was in place.*

*The embalming team, a collection of 6 Soviet and Vietnamese embalmers, worked to remove critical organs. His lips were sewn together, false eyeballs were implanted to prevent drooping, and his eyelids were sewn shut. The body tissue was fixed with a formaldehyde solution to delay the cell walls from breaking down. His blood was drained. 2 gallons of formalin was injected into the arteries and vulnerable parts of the flesh. The work was completed under strict environmental requirements that provided a stable temperature at 16 degree Celsius. Ho's body marinated in a chemical bath for three months; This chemical soup is still used every 18 months for routine maintenance.*

*All this meticulous work was in constant danger—not only due to extensive air raids taking place in wartime Hanoi, but also due to the fact that Ho's body was a U.S. target. Ultimately his body was moved 6 times throughout the course of the war. Each time involved a complex system of military savvy. A special modified truck was used for transport. The body was moved at night on a previously mapped route to avoid problematic bumps. Massive ice blocks were used as air conditioners. The team carried enough chemicals for the unscheduled maintenance of Ho's body in the jungle. Specially modified shock absorbers were reinforced with a reasonable air pump to reduce vibration.*

*A Special Engineering Brigade was assigned to survey and reconstruct a new lab at the K9 military base, located at Ba Vi mountain in the jungle. The site had to be equipped with running water, electricity, and proper air conditioning. A 65 meter deep well supplied water and three diesel motor generators would work to supply electricity to operate the embalming machines. An existing glass hut at the base was used to house the body. A 5 m wide 6 meter deep pit had to be built underneath. No explosion was used. Instead 1800 manual drill twists lifted the hut, in order for the pit to be dug.*

### TODAY

*Little of this military history remains on the site. The Ba Vi mountain is now an eco-tourism site. In the early 2000s, the state built a Temple dedicated to 'Uncle Ho' here. This event perhaps uncoincidentally occurred soon after the true contents of Ho's will were leaked.*

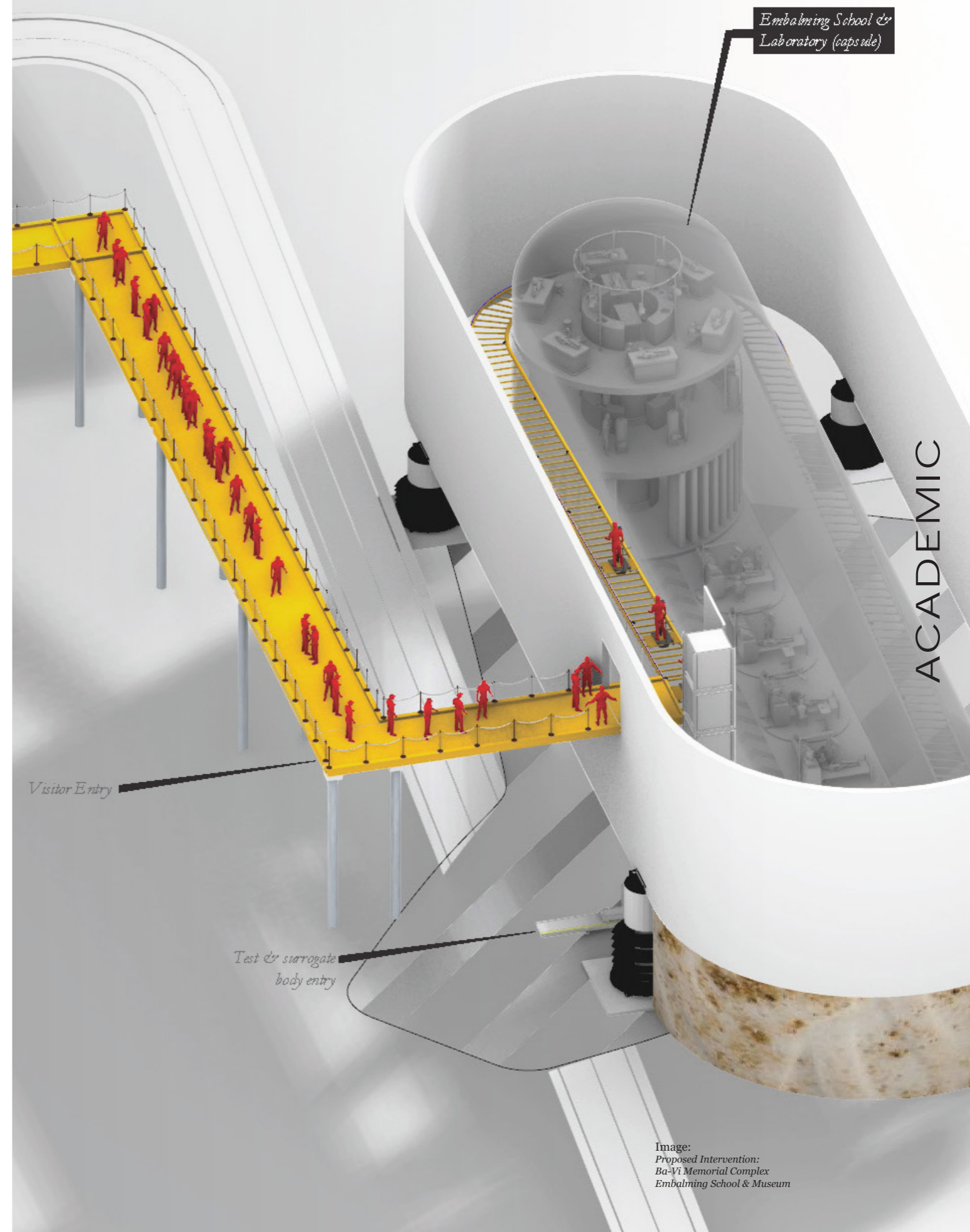
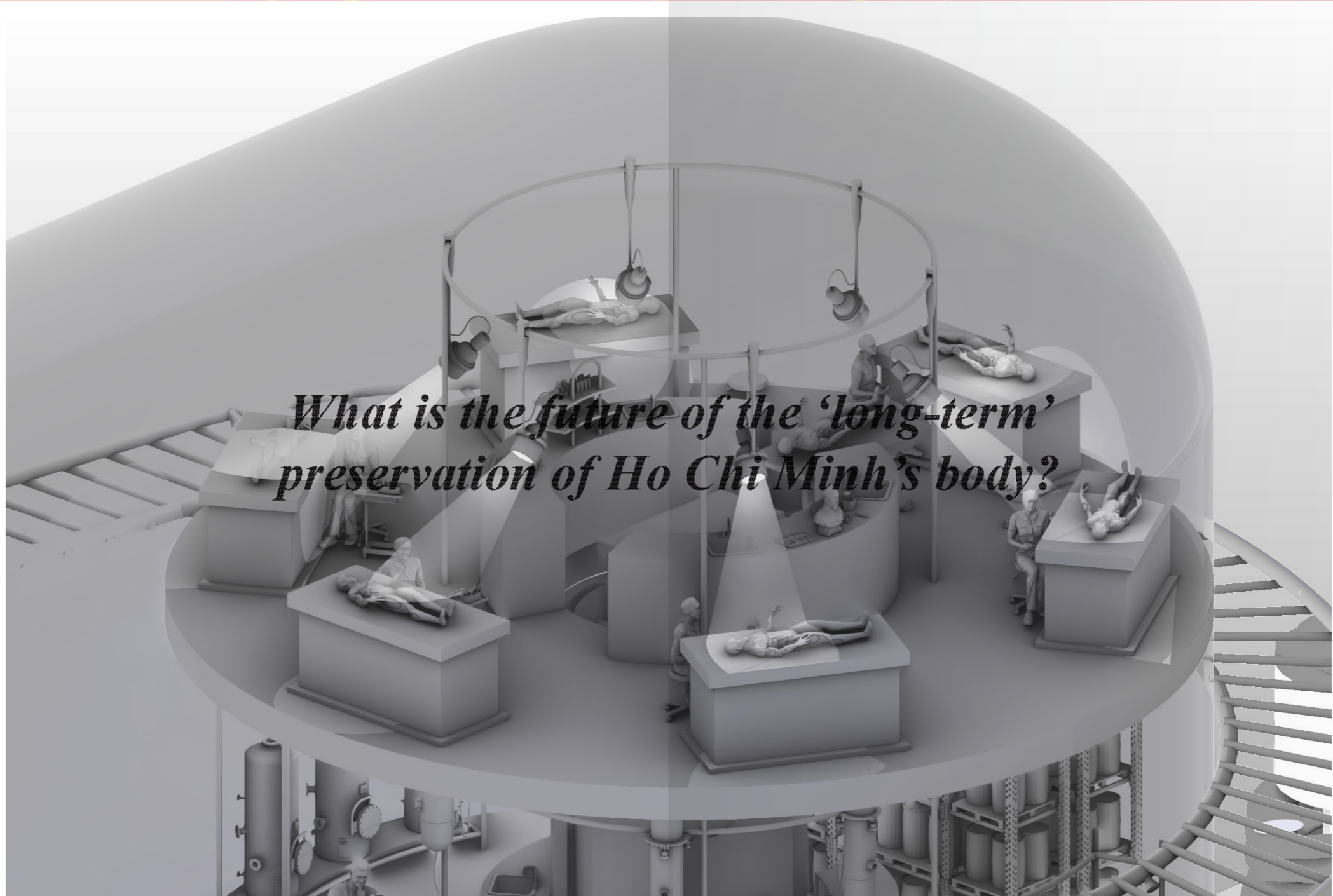


Image:  
Proposed Intervention:  
Ba-Vi Memorial Complex  
Embalming School & Museum

RESEARCH—DESIGN

Secret Cave laboratory  
April 1972 - Dec 1972



*What is the future of the 'long-term'  
preservation of Ho Chi Minh's body?*

ACADEMIC

Image:  
Proposed Intervention:  
Ba-Vi Memorial Complex

Ho Chi Minh home  
Sept. 1969  
HANOI

Zalam Airport

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum  
1975

Military Hospital 108  
Project 75A  
Secret Embalming Laboratory  
Sept. 1969-Dec 1969

**BA-VI MEMORIAL COMPLEX**

**What is the future ‘long term’  
preservation of Ho Chi Minhs Body?**

Re-orienting the state’s sacred and memorial core away from Mausoleum in Hanoi, the project proposes a new and expanded memorial complex to the long-term preservation of Ho Chi Minh, located at Ba Vi Mountain. The site seeks to both expose and expand the material production of Ho Chi Minh’s body and the architectures of his afterlife. Here, the project proposes a new space for the ritual embalming Ho Chi Minh - at the site of the original act.

An expansion to the commemorative state-apparatus, the site’s architecture extends beyond the Temple at Ba Vi to include Laboratory-Museum and embalming school, a refrigerated storehouse and a re-routed entry to the existing temple. The Laboratory-museum inverts the logic of the Mausoleum-Laboratory. The support structure to the Mausoleum that is often hidden from public view, the laboratory here is instead fully on display, dually acting as an embalming school. Mimicking the military architectures of the site, visitors and museum-goers enter individually on a mechanized curved rail track system that circumnavigates a monolithic, hermetic glass tube, housing the laboratory spaces. Classroom programming associated with the embalming school here act as stations of re-enactment for museum goers. A cosmetic station displays the invisible surfaces, the sculpting and re-sculpted of test bodies where the practice of Restorative Art, Cosmetics, Manual Dexterity are put on display. Certain donated test bodies that enter the school act as surrogate bodies, in which the rituals associated with the care and maintenance of the body replicates those used for Ho’s body. An embalming station and auditorium becomes the new space where Ho’s body is ritually embalmed every 18 months. Surrogate bodies are displayed in this space in the interim for the ritual re-enactment of the embalming maintenance procedure.

The complex expands the understanding and complexity of the state apparatus by calling attention to a monumental construction and manipulation of dead bodies. It exposes all of the work necessary to make the work of the Mausoleum possible. An extension of the state, the waxy 129 year old body we see displayed in a glass capsule in Hanoi, is the product of a complex military project to not only preserve but display. Mimicking architectures of display, the Memorial Complex here performs, namely by accounting for bodies not only as symbols, but as integral part in the realization and the continued mechanization of Ho’s memory. Rather than placing the emphasis on a secret imaginary, the project instead relies on constituent and citizen participation; It focuses the view on the concreteness of surrogate bodies, their agentive presence as an integral part to understanding and exposing the history and militarism associated with Ho’s memory.

This newly expanded Memorial Complex and state-apparatus ultimately exposes the many complexities involved in the continued long term preservation of Ho’s body, and uses them for display.

**ACADEMIC WORK**

Columbia University GSAPP  
M.Arch

Studio\_Cultural Agents Orange  
(Vietnam War)

ADV Studio VI  
Spring 2020

Critic: Mark Wasiuta  
TA: Jarrett Ley

Individual Project:  
*Militarization of Memory: Ho’ Chi Minh’s  
mummy-stem, the mausoleum-labratory, and  
the architectures of afterlife*

Image:  
*View inside the Embalming  
School & Museum*

ACADEMIC

# Constantinos Doxiadis' Informational Modernism: The Machine at the Heart of Man

RESEARCH—DESIGN

COLLABORATIVE

ONASSIS STEGI

2023

COLLABORATIVE WORK

ONASSIS Stegi Museum  
Athens, Greece

Exhibition, 2023

Concept, Research, Curation:  
**Mark Wasiuta &  
Farzin Lotfi-Jam**

Role:  
Research, Design &  
Curatorial Assistant

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Curatorial Research, Production Team:  
Meera Almazrooei  
Jarrett Ley  
Parker Limón  
Austin McInnis

Design and Fabrication Coordination:  
studioentropia architects

Fabrication Consultant:  
Manos Vordonarakis

Executive Direction:  
Afroditi Panagiotakou, Prodromos Tsiavos

NHUCO Coordinator:  
Lefteris Papagiannakis

with the support of:  
the Greek Council for Refugees and Melissa Network

Commissioned and Produced by:  
Onassis Foundation

Image:  
Photo @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki



The exhibition examines one of the most pressing and transformational conditions of the last half century—the overlapping and intertwining of cities, people, and information systems. The exhibition shows this in two episodes. The first covers the prescient use of computers in the 1960s by the Greek architect and internationally celebrated planner of cities, Constantinos A. Doxiadis through the work of DACC—the Doxiadis Associates Computer Center. The second episode traces these computational practices to present day Europe, with new research into the physical form, technical administration, and territorial spread of Mediterranean border management systems.

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
GLM\_computer printouts  
Doxiadis Associates Computer Center



COLLABORATIVE WORK Onassis STEGI Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
UDA maps\_Developing Urban  
Detroit Area\_Doxiadis Associates



COLLABORATIVE WORK Onassis STEGI Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
HUCO survey maps\_Athens  
Doxiadis Associates

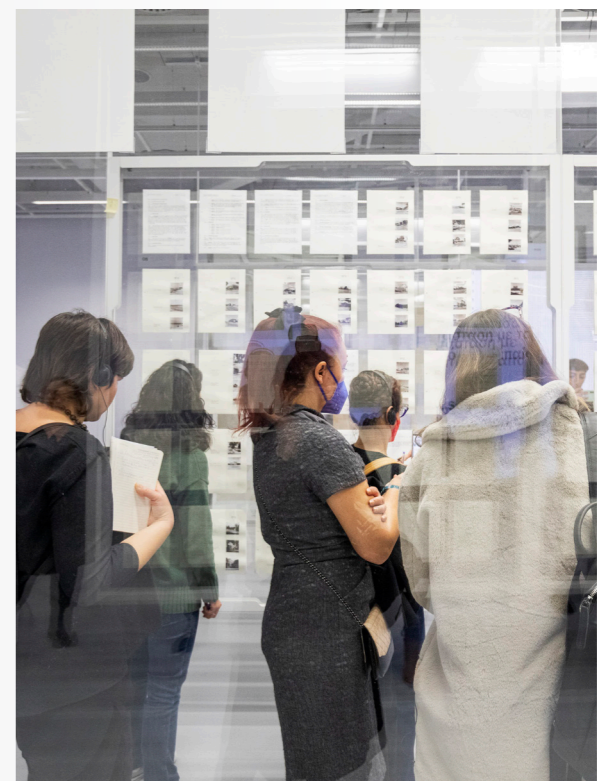


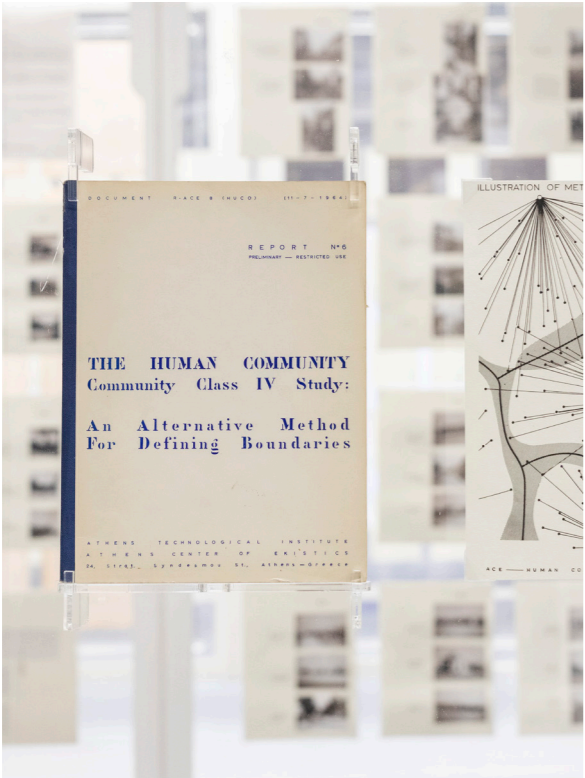
Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
The Human Community Surveys  
Doxiadis Associates

COLLABORATIVE



COLLABORATIVE WORK    Onassis STEGI    Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
*Doxiadis Associates Computer Center*



COLLABORATIVE WORK    Onassis STEGI    Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarit Yoko Nikitaki  
*HUCO report*

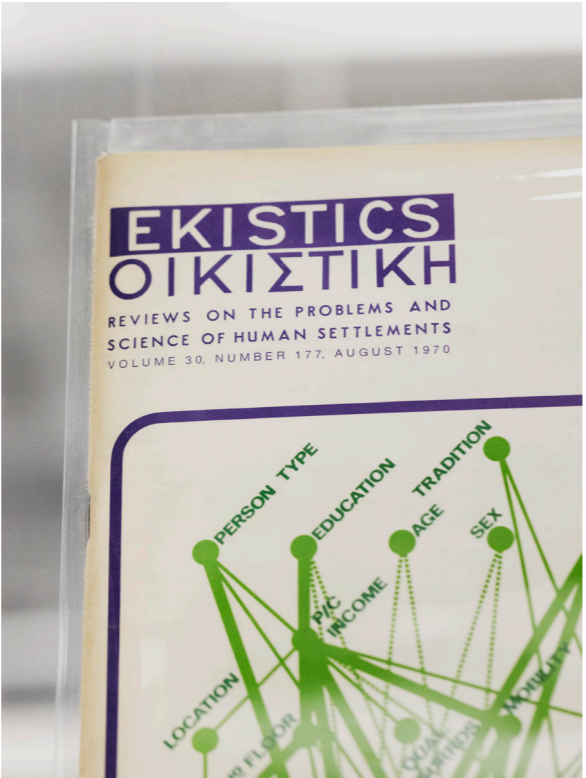


Image @ Margarit Yoko Nikitaki  
*Ekistics Journal\_Doxiadis Associates*

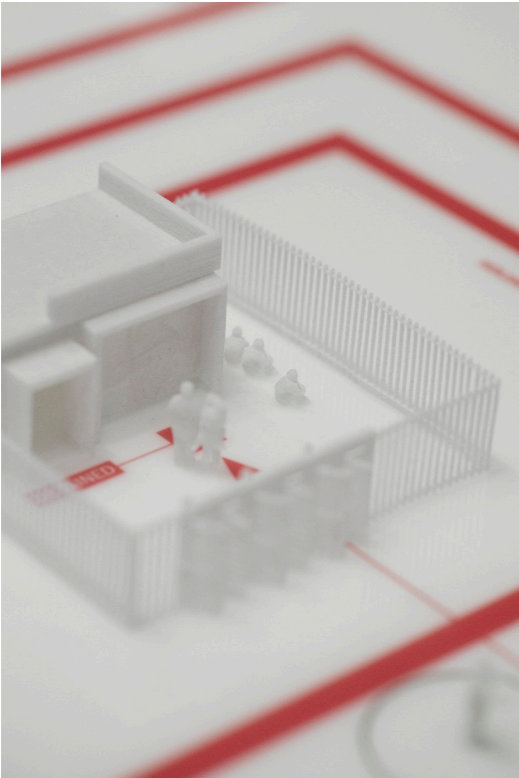


Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
*NHUCO recorded interviews with the support of the Greek Council for Refugees*



COLLABORATIVE WORK Onassis STEGI Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
Site table\_extraction devices &  
Mediterranean border sites



COLLABORATIVE WORK Onassis STEGI Exhibition, 2023

Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
Site model\_detained

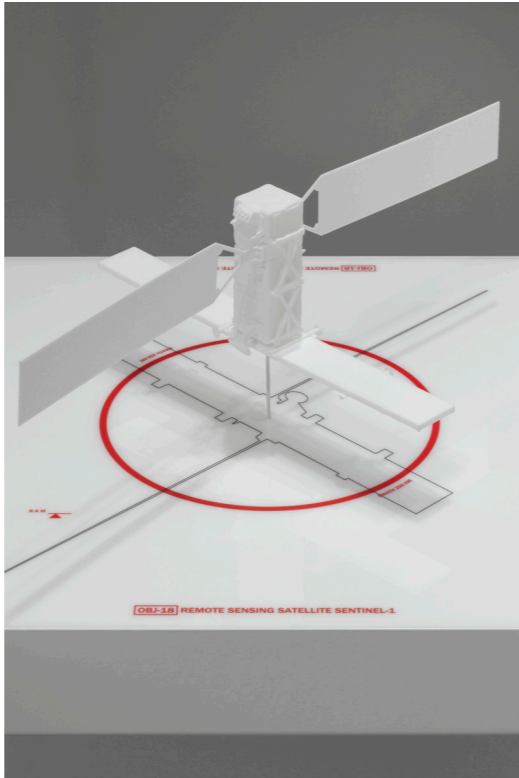


Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
Device model\_remote sensing  
satellite

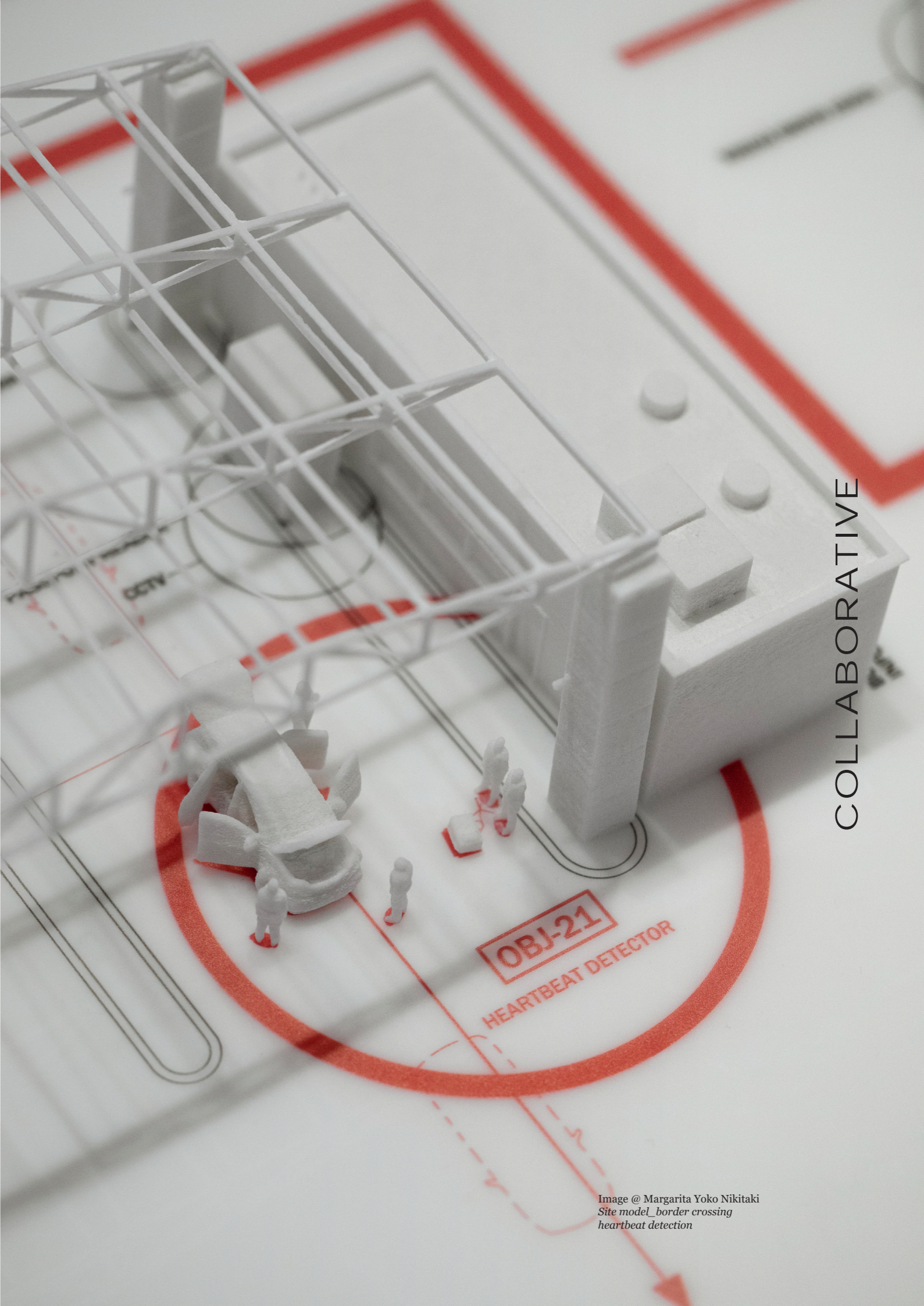


Image @ Margarita Yoko Nikitaki  
Site model\_border crossing  
heartbeat detection



PROFESSIONAL

PROFESSIONAL WORK

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY  
  
Structural: WSP  
MEP: Oxford Engineering  
Lighting: Viabizzuno  
Facade consultant: WSP  
AOR: Dearborn Architects

Kith Chicago  
Built, 2025  
  
10,154 SF (2 story)  
New Interiors  
New Facade & stair



Images:  
Facade details and elevation  
Bellatrix schist-full slab exterior

PRACTICE



PROFESSIONAL WORK    Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY    Kith Chicago  
Built, 2025

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
*Men's 1st floor\_custom millwork ceiling*



PROFESSIONAL WORK    Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY    Kith Chicago  
Built, 2025

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
*Men's footwear 1st floor\_custom cases  
belvedere quartzite*



PROFESSIONAL WORK    Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY    Kith Chicago  
Built, 2025

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
*Women's Apparel\_2nd floor*



Image: *New Stair*  
*custom millwork & danby marble treads*



PROFESSIONAL WORK    Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY    Kith Chicago  
Built, 2025

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
*Women's Accessories*



Image:  
*Women's hallway*

PROFESSIONAL

PRACTICE

PROFESSIONAL WORK

Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY

Kith Malibu  
Built, 2024

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Structural: Ashley & Vance  
MEP: AlfaTech  
Lighting: Viabizzuno  
AOR: Loescher Meachem Architects

4,748 SF (single story)  
New Interiors

Image: Apparel  
Table: 17' long millwork flatlay  
Ash wood & travertine



PROFESSIONAL WORK

Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY

Kith Malibu  
Built, 2024

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Structural: Ashley & Vance  
MEP: AlfaTech  
Lighting: Viabizzuno  
AOR: Loescher Meachem Architects

4,748 SF (single story)  
New Interiors



PROFESSIONAL WORK

Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY

Kith Malibu  
Built, 2024

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
Apparel niche



Image:  
Treats\_ice cream shop



PROFESSIONAL WORK

Porto Architecture,  
Brooklyn NY

Kith Malibu  
Built, 2024

Project Lead:  
Grace Alli

Image:  
Footwear\_millwork fins & suspended stone shelf



**PROFESSIONAL WORK** Studio Tack  
(now Post Company)  
Brooklyn NY

Role:  
Design Intern

Project Lead:  
Brent Kitchen  
Leigh Salem

Melbourne boutique hotel  
Schematic, 2019

Image:  
guest bathroom

Image:  
typical guest room render



**PROFESSIONAL WORK** Studio Tack  
(now Post Company)  
Brooklyn NY

Melbourne boutique hotel  
Schematic, 2019

Image:  
guest bathroom

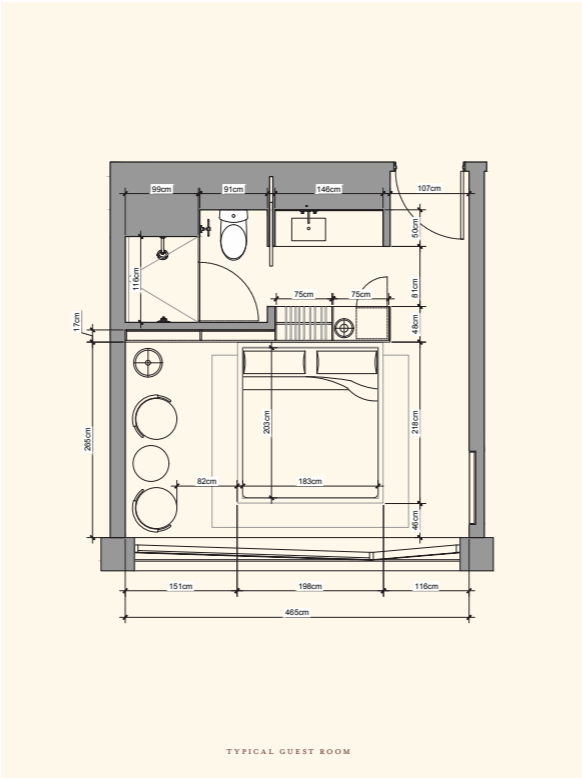
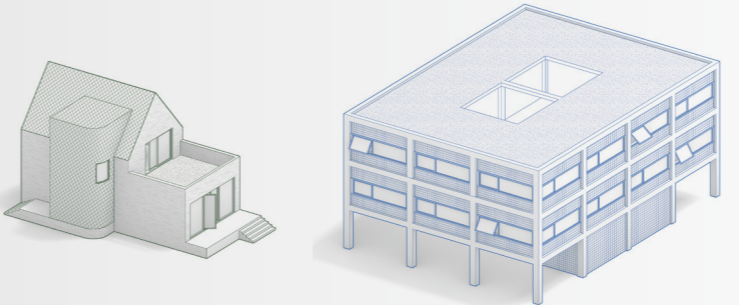


Image:  
typical floor plan



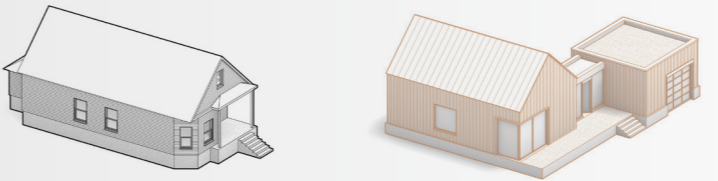
**FIVE TYPES**

The four new typologies of housing join the current housing stock, existing somewhere between a house and a corner store, a factory and an apartment building, an art gallery and a garage. They offer a diverse set of spatial experiences and a range of different ways of living, making room for creatives, makers, seekers of community, and providing space for living, working and playing.



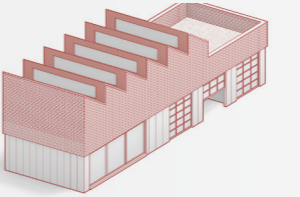
**SHOP HOUSE**  
1,540 SF

**FRAME HOUSE**  
10,200 SF



**EXISTING HOUSE**  
1,175 SF

**BREEZEWAY HOUSE**  
1,000 SF



**BAR HOUSE**  
2,900 SF



**THE ALLEY**

The alley is reclaimed by pedestrians and the public. It is an extension of the interior space of the surrounding houses. Porches and commercial spaces open up to the alley activating the relationship to the "internal street" and altering our understanding of the front of the house.



**THE STAGE**

The spine swells to form a public courtyard space holding a range of activities from basketball to casual seating around a fire, acting as communal backyard for residents and visitors. The buildings bordering the plinth take on commercial programs to further activate the public space.



**PROFESSIONAL WORK** Von Staden Architects  
Royal Oak, MI

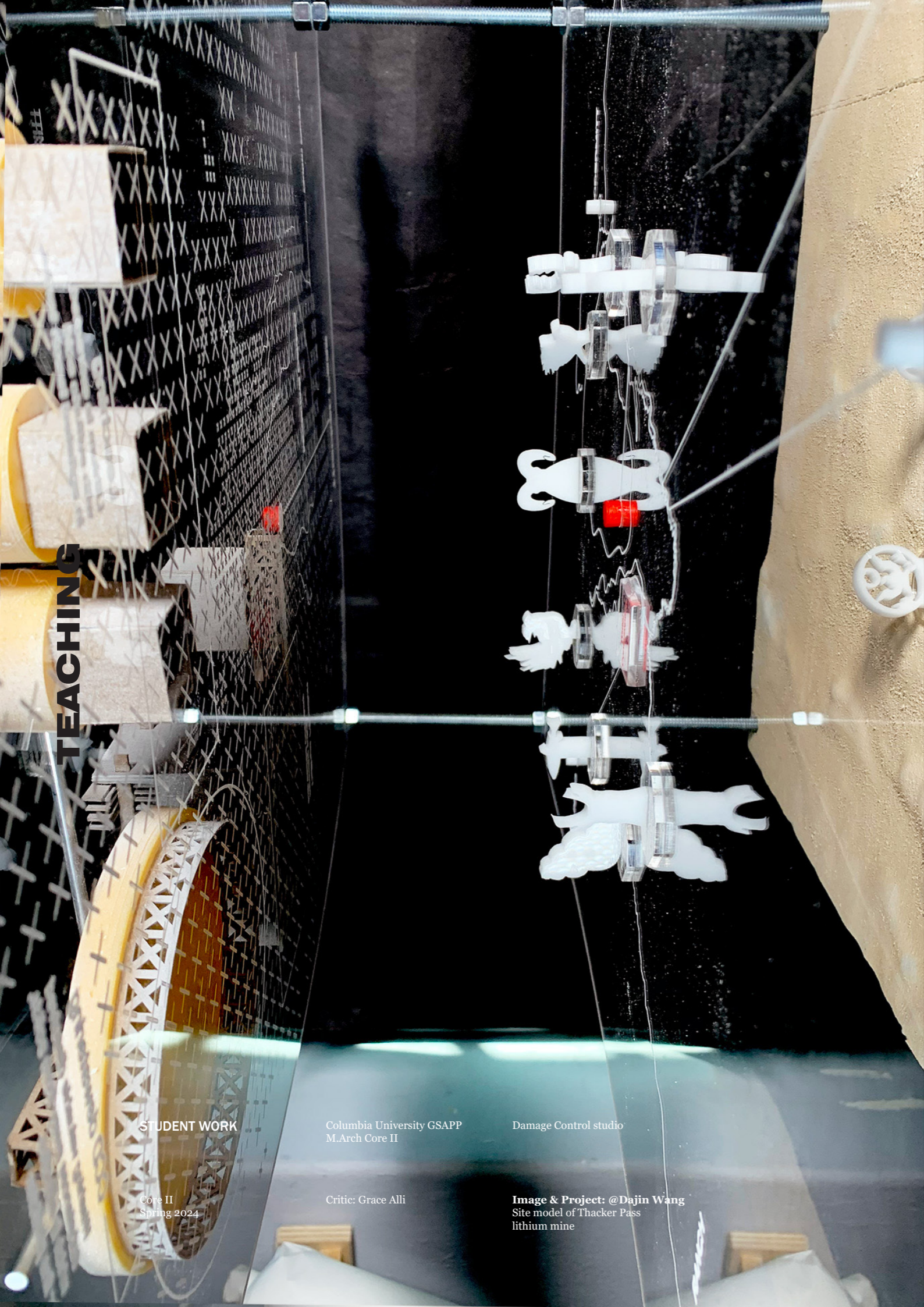
Industry Village, Housing  
Development  
Core City, Detroit 2021  
Schematic-Concept

Living -61,500 SF  
Working -11,480 SF  
Flex Space -10,040 SF  
Retail / Studio -15,250 SF

Team Member

Project Team:  
Tamas Von Staden  
Gail Von Staden  
Madelyn Willey

Core City Creative Industries  
Concept Package, 2021



TEACHING

STUDENT WORK

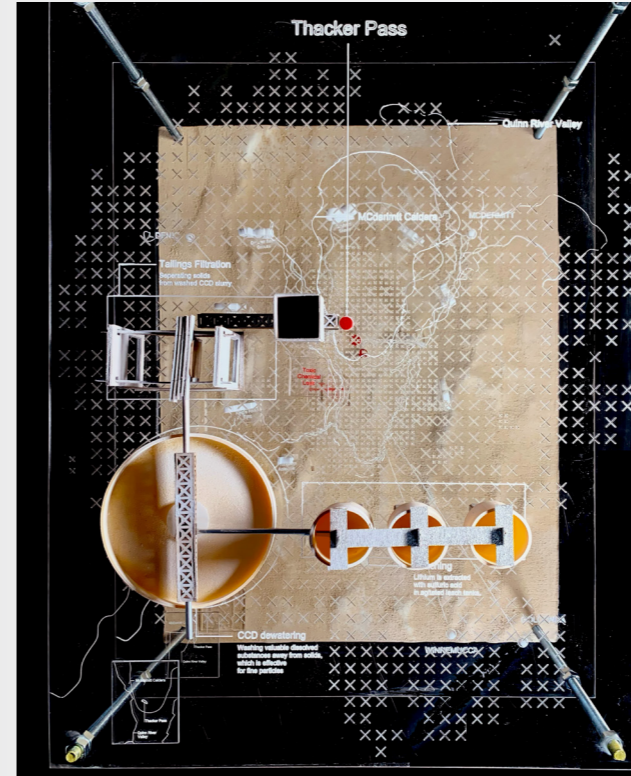
Core II  
Spring 2024

Columbia University GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II

Critic: Grace Alli

Damage Control studio

Image & Project: @Dajin Wang  
Site model of Thacker Pass  
lithium mine



STUDENT WORK

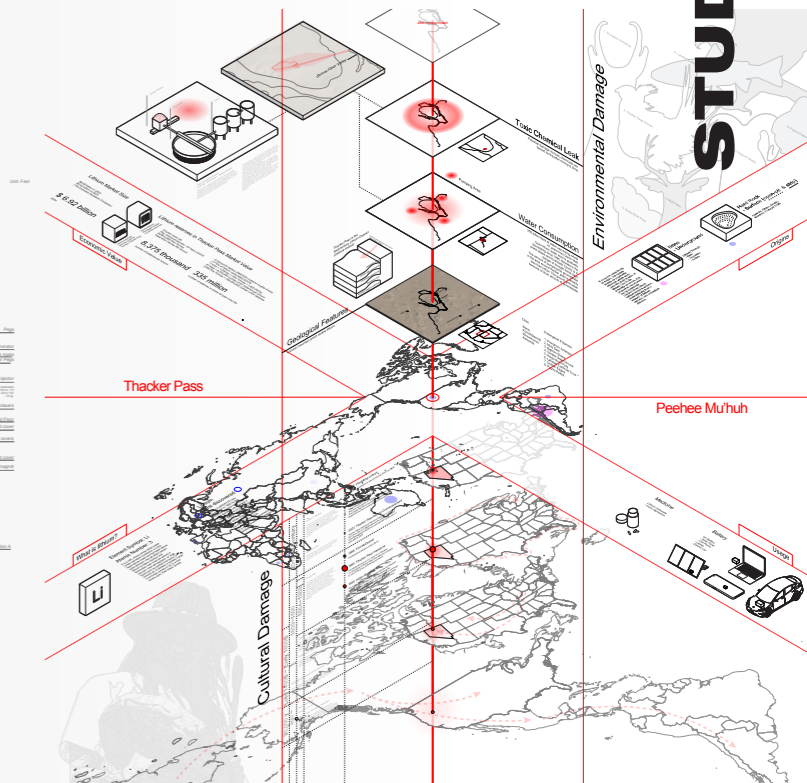
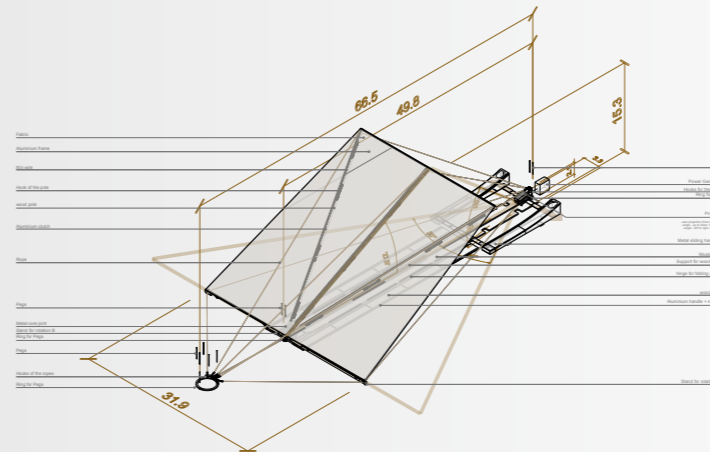
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II

Damage Control studio

Core II  
Spring 2024

Critic: Grace Alli

Images & Project @DAJIN WANG  
Site model\_environmental damage  
at Thacker Pass



STUDENT WORK

Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II

Damage Control studio

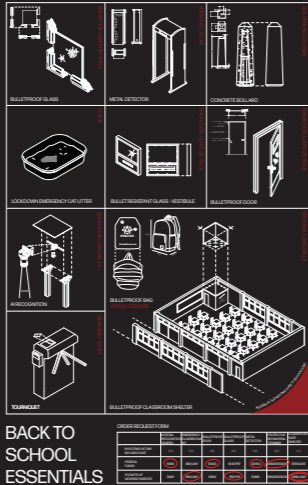
Core II  
Spring 2024

Critic: Grace Alli

Images & Project @DAJIN WANG  
Design intervention detail drawing  
at Thacker Pass

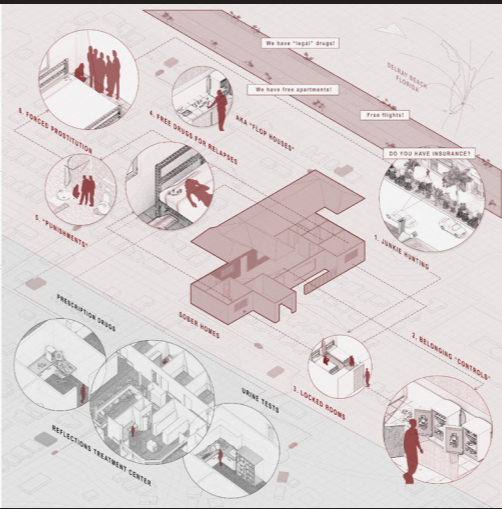
Images & Project @DAJIN WANG  
DCOI\_Damage Systems drawing  
at Thacker Pass

STUDENT WORK



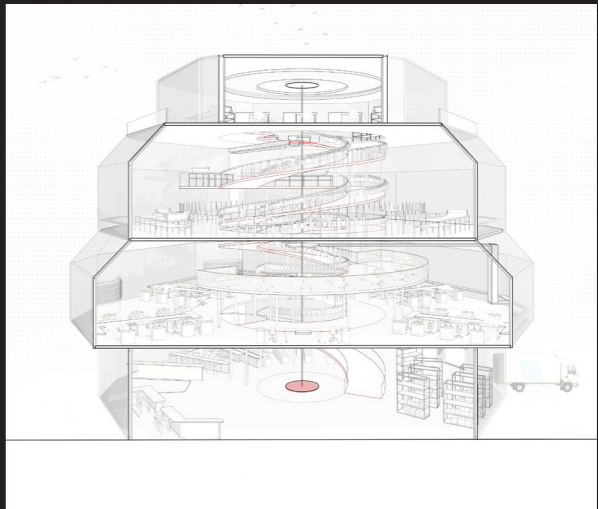
STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @LORENAH GRANFORS  
Shots Fired: Exposing the Commercialization  
of School Safety



STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @TSZ TUNG KWONG  
"Reactive Solar Walls"  
Fashion Research ET



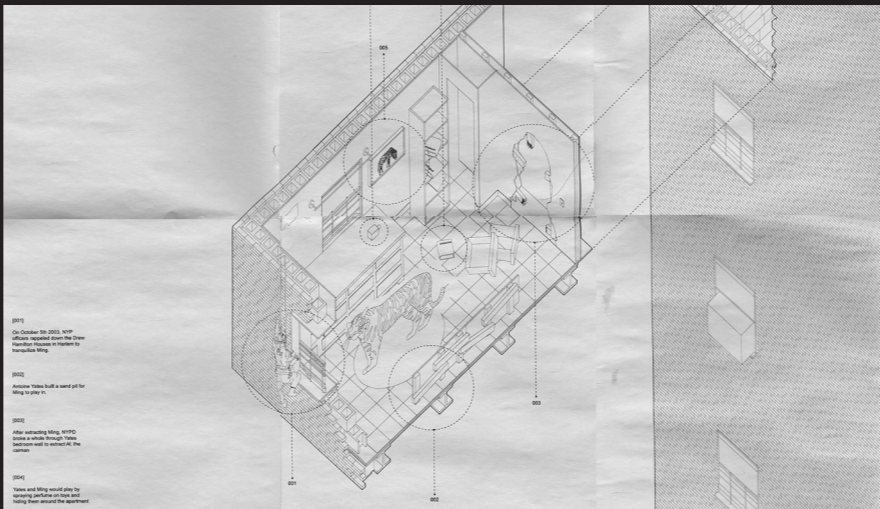
STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @NASHIA OLISE  
LA Fashion District Garment  
Districts



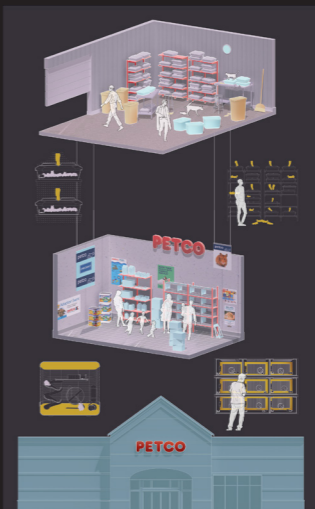
STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @LORENAH GRANFORS  
Shots Fired: Exposing the Commercialization  
of School Safety



STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @DIDIER LUCCEUS  
"Dear Antoine"



STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali

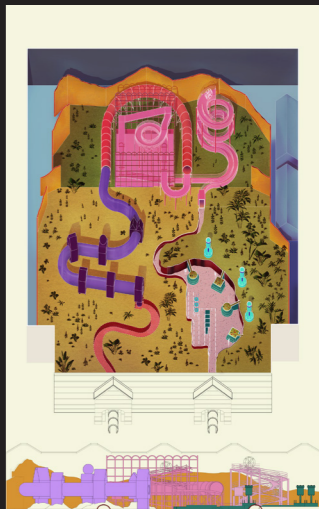
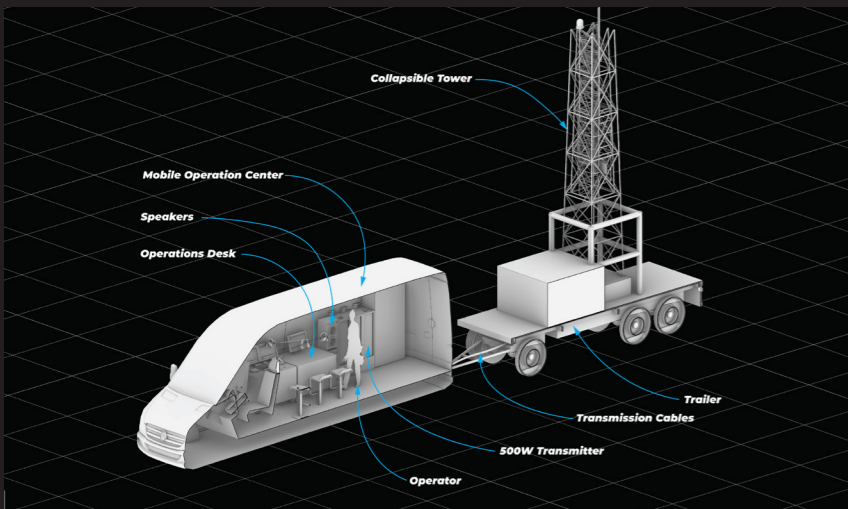
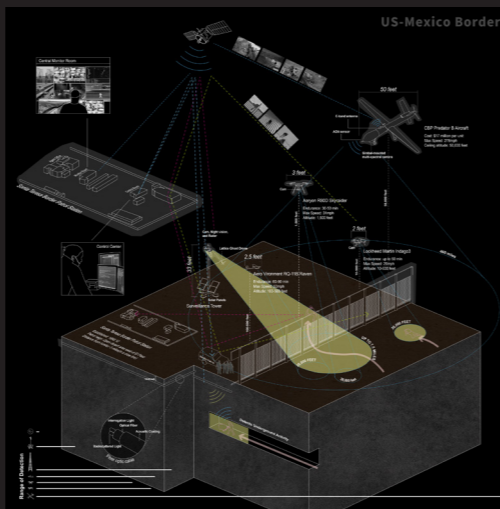


Image & Project @BEN GARCIA  
An amusement park for humans and  
hamsters

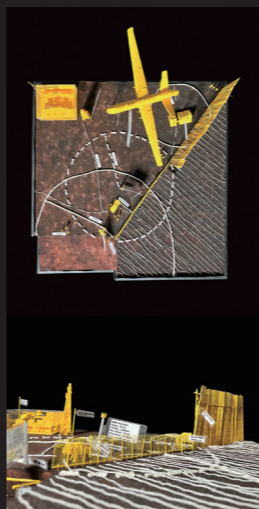


STUDENT WORK  
Lawrence Tech  
AAS2 advanced studio  
Collecting Cultural  
Intelligence studio  
ARC 2014  
Fall 2021  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @NATHAN KUREK & NATALIE FARANSO  
Heritage Under Threat: Music censorship &  
Radio sites under the Taliban



STUDENT WORK  
Columbia GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II  
Damage Control studio  
Core II  
Spring 2024  
Critic: Grace Ali



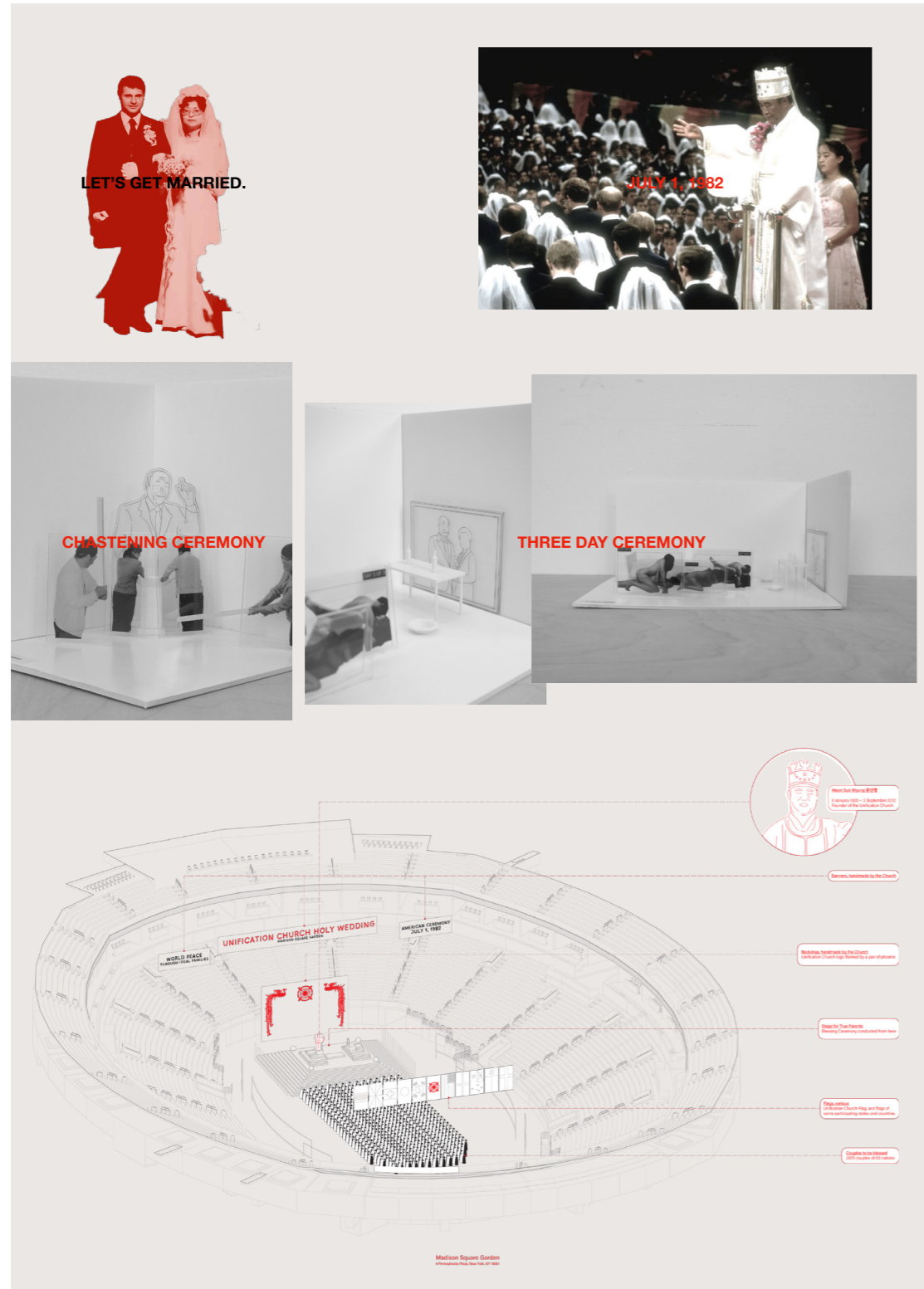
Images & Project @SARA SONG  
DC02: Damage Duration Model  
border surveillance technologies at  
US-Mexico border



STUDENT WORK  
Lawrence Tech  
AAS2 advanced studio  
"Just Walk Out" studio  
ARC 2014  
Spring 2022  
Critic: Grace Ali

Image & Project @AARON WRUBEL & YUNCHUAN SHEN  
"React Wall" A Biometric Driven Wall System

STUDENT WORK



STUDENT WORK

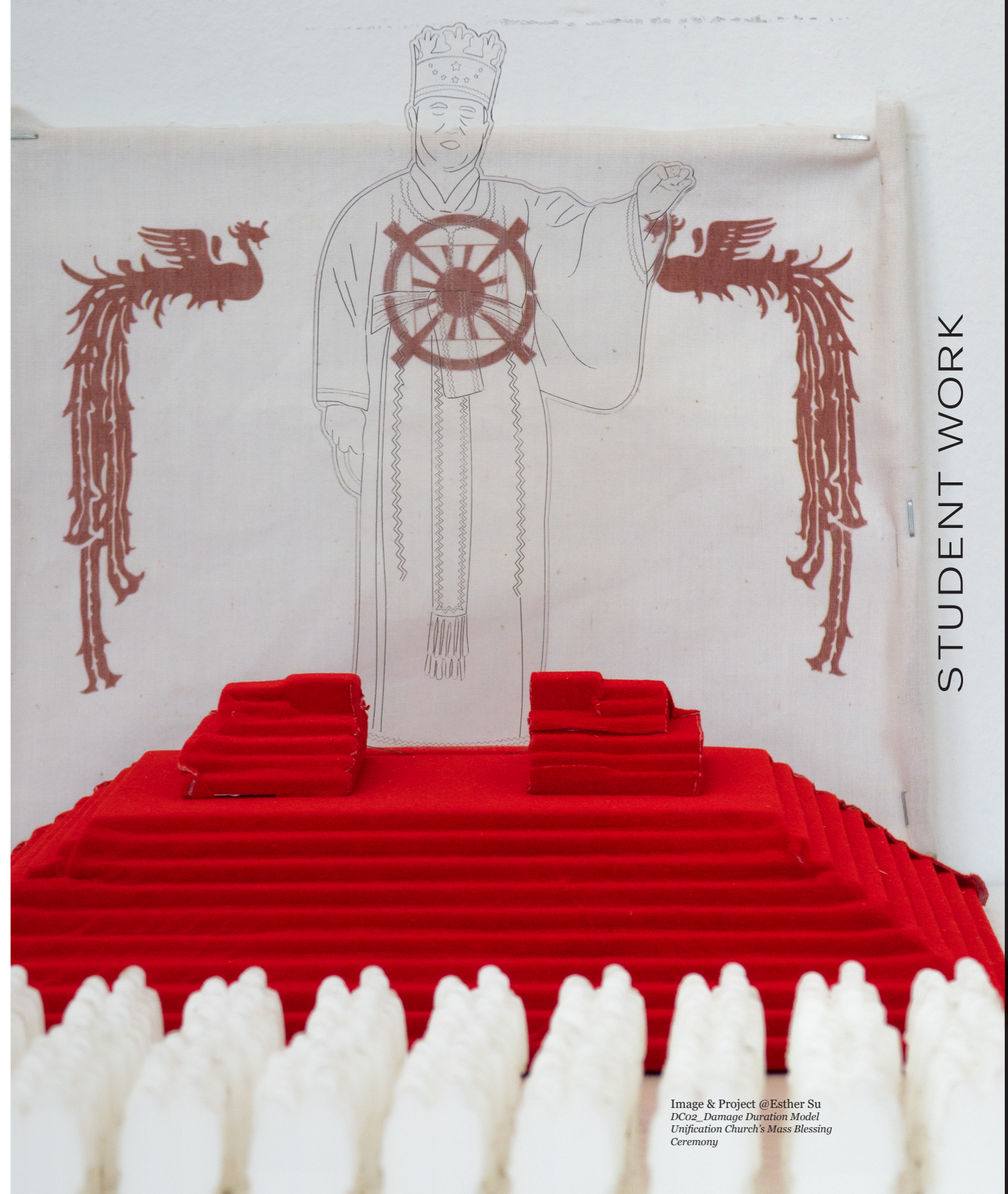
Columbia University GSAPP  
M.Arch Core II

Damage Control studio

Core II  
Spring 2024

Critic: Grace Alli

Individual Project @Esther Su  
Victims of the Unification Church's 1982  
Mass Blessing



GRACE ALLI

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gracealli.com