

OPTION STUDIOS

In Spring 2022 there will be a new set of second year option studios 48:205. The studios offer opportunities to explore differing disciplinary interests. There will be a preference process with an online form issued on Nov 12th. Second year students are asked to submit three preferences with the reasoning. Studio numbers will be balanced and the rosters will be published on Dec 1st.

1. syncopation_jared abraham

syncopation: a temporary displacement of the regular metrical accent in music caused typically by stressing the weak beat - Merriam Webster Dictionary

Syncopation is characterized by the displacement of regular accents associated with given metrical patterns.¹ Applying this technique to architecture poses the question, what normative rhythms or patterns exist as a result of our constructed environment? How do these regular patterns reinforce both physical and cultural norms? Inversely, what are the invisible, underlying, or under-represented conditions within the city (historical, physical, cultural, social, economic)? How might we use architecture to displace the normative & accent the weak beat?

This studio proposes the use of syncopation as a technique with which to analyze, augment, and disrupt the constructed environment; syncopation as methodology.

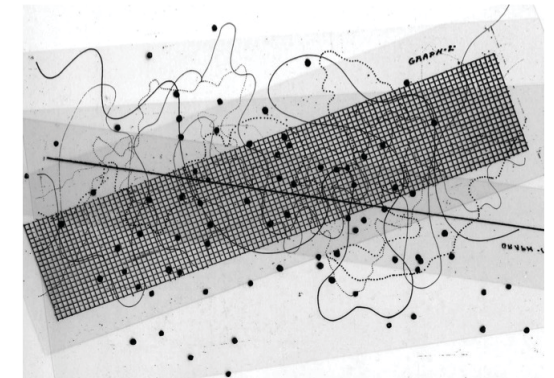
The context for this project is an underserved neighborhood in Pittsburgh. The semester will begin with a group site & precedent analysis in which students develop new methodologies to map the site based on the principles of syncopation. As a group, we will identify a single parcel for our intervention. The project is a mixed-use building or intervention with a scope, scale, and program to be determined based on the studio's initial research and analysis.

Students will work individually to develop their proposals. Each proposal will encompass attributes of both the civic and domestic; commercial and social. Based on their analysis and interpretation of the prompt, students will propose new hybrid typologies comprised of a mix of functions. Through multiple cycles of research & design, we will use physical models & drawings as our primary methods of investigation and representation. Consideration will be given to typology, image, form, tectonics, and experience.

¹ - Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/art/syncopation-music>



1. jared abraham
2. stefani danes
3. eddy man kim
4. steve lee
5. tommy yang



John Cage - Fontana Mix, 1968



Gordon Matta-Clark - Splitting, 1974
photo: Centre Canadien d'Architecture

