



Carnegie Mellon University

School of Architecture

College of Fine Arts, CFA 201

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Compoundologies and an Approach to Reflective Urban Ecologies by Tommy Yang (2020-2022)

48-105: Architecture Design Studio: Poiesis Studio II – Radical Empathy in Architecture¹ - Storytelling as an Architectural Manifesto

Units: 15

Instructor: Tommy CheeMou Yang

As the second studio within the Poiesis Sequence, this studio will nurture a way of making and thinking in design that aims to cultivate *the practice of architecture as an act of creative citizenship*. By building an affinity for an approach linking the cross-cultural study of how people perceive and manipulate their environments, we can push a multimodal understanding of architecture and urban design. We will use a multi-disciplinary approach to become detectives interrogating the contemporary and historical tissue of Pittsburgh through the occupations and working lives, therefore elevating ordinary folks and trades that have and continue to foster the fabric of the city. Grasping the multi-faceted changing environment, this studio will use architectural tools as a base of inquiry to speculate and allow us to transform the way we view our world through multiscale multisystemic perspectives.

The structure of the studio will follow one cohesive research driven design project that will explore narrative modalities, by using critical cartography, archival research, storytelling, programming adjacencies and tectonic exploration as a method to produce a hybrid shop-house focused on the historical trades of Pittsburgh. Students in the sequence will be introduced to critical proficiencies, learn new techniques of representation, and adapt rigorous illustration and animation tools in the production of a dwelling project that is rooted in its urban fabric. Tools students will learn include Rhino 07, Adobe Creative Cloud + After Effects, and preliminary skills in GIS. *These practices in documentation, computer simulation, storytelling and communication will help us narrate a nuanced perspective of our environment – spatializing the way our city situates itself, its ecological relationship, and social scenes in an accessible way for diverse audiences. Poiesis II advocates a multi-conception of moral knowledge built around notions of relationships, interdependence, lived embodiment, and responsibility to others.* Distinguished guests, including architects, animators, visual development designers and game designers, will give workshops and lectures throughout the semester to contest the way we build but also nurture our own practices.

¹ Caswell, Michelle, and Marika Cifor. "From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in the Archives." *Archivaria* 81, no. 81 (2016): 23–.

Caswell describes the act of *radical empathy* as a tool to address social justice concerns towards a feminist ethics of care, where processes posit *interlacing and ongoing relationships of mutual obligation that are dependent on culture, and context*. In this studio, we will use this notion to challenge the architect not as the beholder of design solutions, but as a creative citizen who can use their skills to amplify the voices of places we design with.