

M.ARCH THESIS

Graduate Independent Thesis Collective Studio

HEATHER BIZON

“Disposition, in common parlance, usually describes an unfolding relationship between potentials. It describes a tendency, activity, faculty, or property in either beings or objects—a propensity within a context.”

Keller Easterling, Extrastatecraft



Graduate Thesis, Master of Architecture

An architectural thesis is a proposition. A proposition that results from a critique and re-examination of the role of architecture as a critical participant in the conditioning of (public) space. A thesis demands that the student take a position and have something to say, something to contribute to the ongoing discourse in the widening sphere of architecture.

In this studio, students are expected to engage and develop a wide range of interrelated capacities, including critical thinking, analytical writing and reflective design production; ranging from building construction, design research, emerging technologies and materiality, social issues, landscape, urbanism, spatial perception and methods of conceptual thinking.

Thesis culminates with a presentation and public exhibition of a holistically-researched architectural proposition. Marking the transition between academic and professional practices, the thesis project is an opportunity to define an individual position relative to the discipline of architecture.



IMAGE ABOVE
Alexandra Arènes, Atelier SOC
(www.s-o-c.fr)

IMAGE LEFT
Kacper Kowalski, *Secondary Effects*, 2005

Organization

The M.Arch thesis studio will be conducted to support each individual student's independent thesis through both readings, discussion groups, and collective exchanges. As a cohort, the studio will interrogate broader sets of collective questions that concurrently inform thesis research. Through a series of “Thesis Talks,” students will reflect and collectively frame issues and topics relating to their theses. Outside critics and guests will be invited to participate and engage to encourage broad discussion.

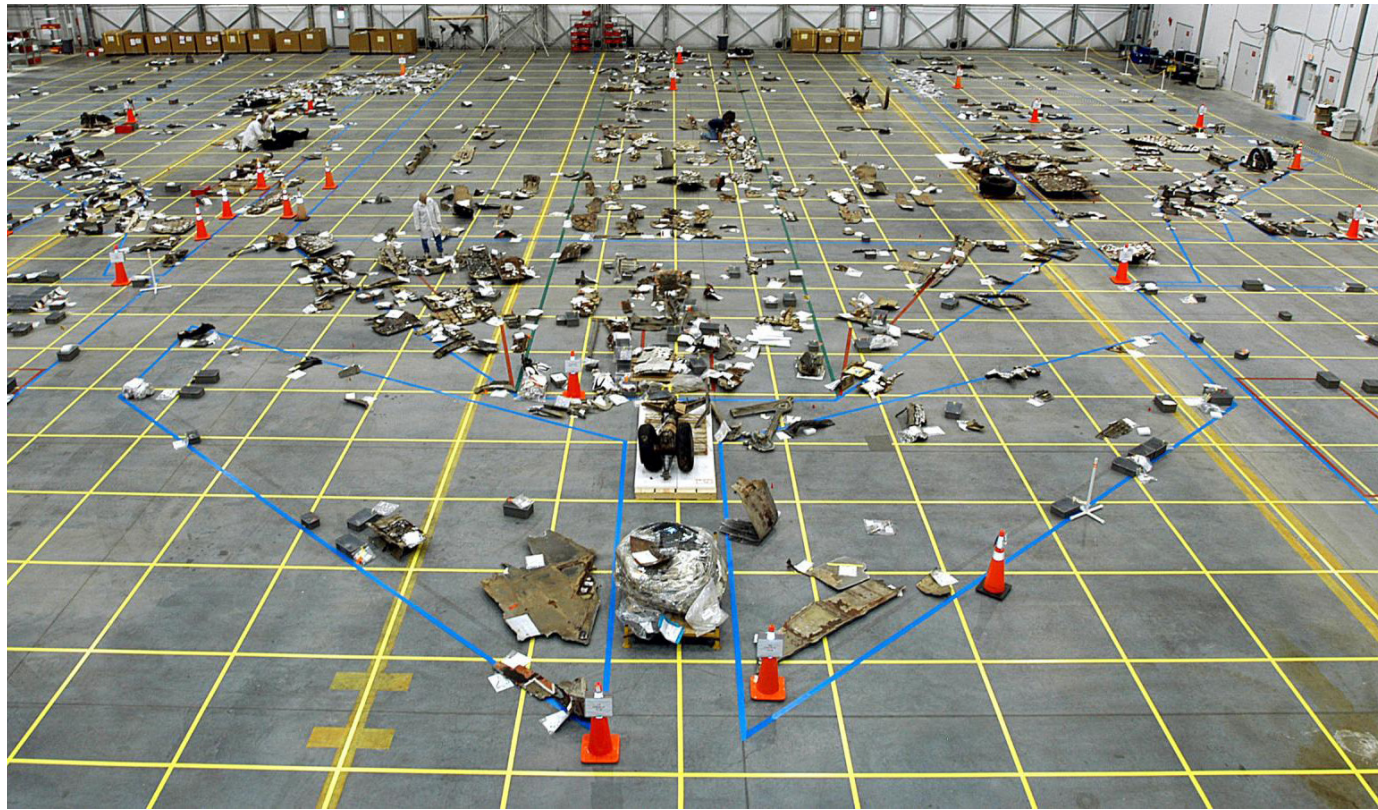
Design Research & Representation

Architecture is a cultural project that contributes to a developing understanding of how tradition and identity affect our built environment. An architectural argument is supported not only through the design and research, but through the expression of the idea through representation and presentation. As such, this thesis based studio will focus heavily on the representation of each student's thesis.

The thesis projects will be fully represented through sets of architectural representations. It is necessary for a cultural practice such as architecture to deeply investigate questions of aesthetics. How architects have made aesthetic arguments through a variety of different mediums is of crucial importance for the discipline of architecture.

Exhibition & Symposium

An architectural thesis demonstrating such creative understanding would be able to sustain critique at various levels of interpretation and enquiry. In a symposium-like forum to consider, debate, and dispute emerging questions in architecture, students will present and exhibit their thesis projects to the public. Students will articulate, propose, and defend their ideas and positions on architecture as well as engage with professionals as peers and colleagues.



Learning Outcomes

The course is designed for students to produce a semester long, studio based project. The course will hinge around the transition from the prerequisite thesis seminar to the articulation of the architectural argument into a design proposition.

- Articulate a clear argument; translate the design ideas into cohesive design based argument.
- Leverage verbal, written, and visual forms of communication to describe complex ideas.
- Transition research based design to projective design processes.
- Understand how the choice of design media, method and representations relates to your thesis topic.
- Development and execution of design methodology.
- Production of final materials for the Thesis Exhibition and Symposium.

IMAGE ABOVE
Hangar at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, March 7, 2003, photo © NASA/Getty Images n NASA crash investigators place debris from the Space Shuttle Columbia onto a grid on the floor of a hangar.

IMAGE RIGHT, TOP
Philipp Schaerer, Bildbauten, 2012

IMAGE RIGHT, CENTER
Bernd and Hilla Becher, "Typologies"

IMAGE RIGHT, BOTTOM
Keith Krumwiede, Atlas of Another America: An Architectural Fiction



Selected References

Easterling, Keller. "Extrastatecraft." Verso, London, England; 2004

Latour, Bruno, "From Realpolitik to Dingpolitik or How to Make Things Public"; Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy, MIT Press, 2005.

Latour, Bruno in H.Kulick (editor). "Visualisation and Cognition: Drawing Things Together," Knowledge and Society Studies in the Sociology of Culture Past and Present, Fai Press vol. 6, pp. 1-40

Gage, Mark Foster ed.; Aesthetics and Politics; 2018

