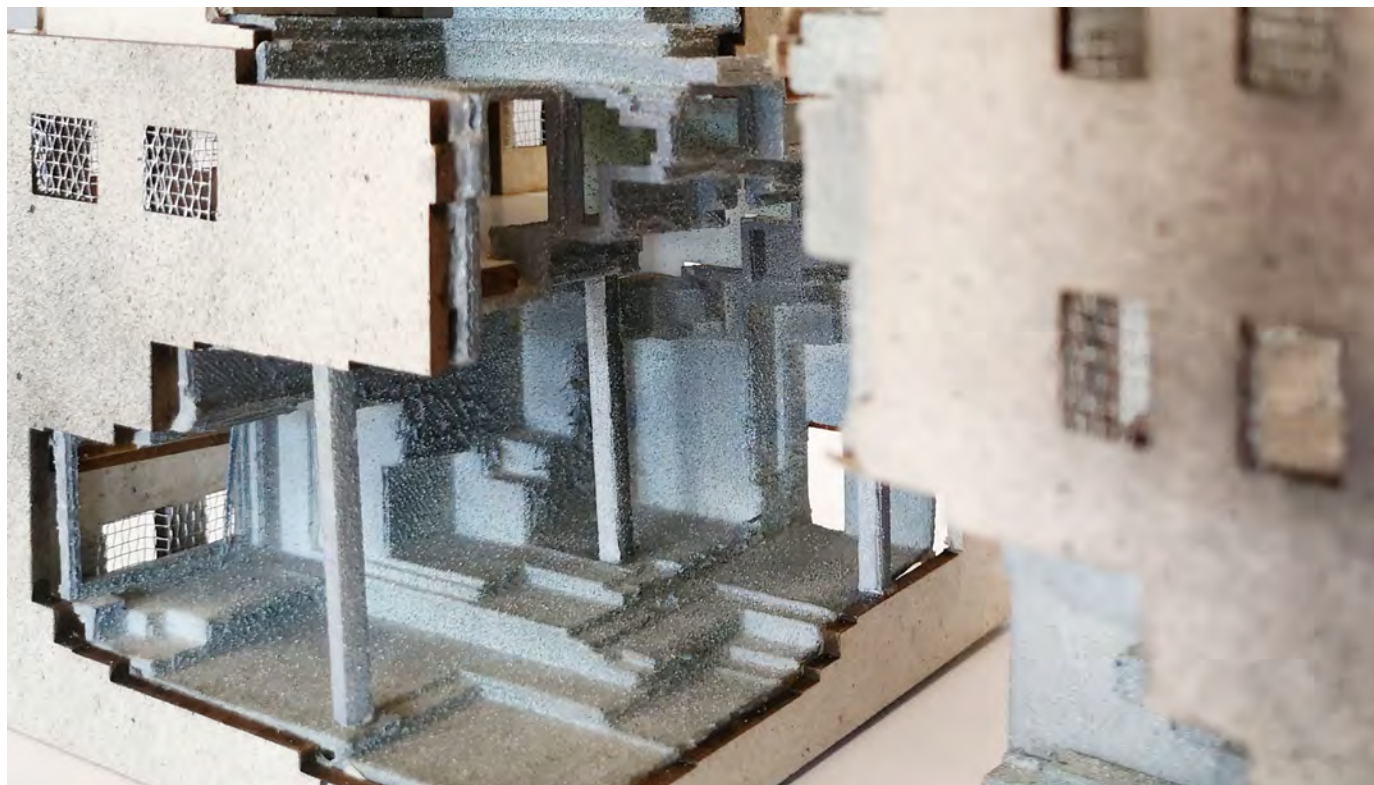


# INTENSIVITY

## Constructing Privacy on the Edge of the Urban.

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**Architecture is an interface that enables an everyday participation in the domain of the urban.**



### Background

An intensive property is one that is not dependent on the size of the sample or system, but localizes within small samples the same way as in macro units.

This studio argues that urban properties are similarly intensive and can be identified on at any scale, even those smaller than a building. In particular, we will work on the thickening this moment between architecture and urbanism by identifying and analyzing urban forces and focusing them in concentrated moments on the threshold between interior and exterior.

### Privacy

Public space, is not in itself oppositional to privacy. That a space is accessible or even visible to the public does not preclude private activity, introspection, or rituals. These moments occur all around the city, though spaces dedicated to them are becoming increasingly rare. A common example was the phone booth, where private conversation could be held in direct view and immediate proximity with the flows of public life. In this case, it is the material assemblage of a particular room-like space that constructs a social privacy, even when used for purposes other than its primary intention.



With the current reconsideration of distanced isolation in public spaces, it is perhaps time to think more seriously about how private activity can be more actively supported in our cities.

### Context

This studio will examine architecture as an urban interface, with particular emphasis on how the transparency, materiality, permeability, poché, and visibility of the building skin mediates an urban moment. These moments are conceived to embody and intensify qualities that are otherwise diffuse, expanding to be occupiable and providing a place for specific activities to adhere in contrast to the diffusion and heterogeneity of the public realm.

This may occur as an eruption of a private room from the interior out into the the city as Haus-Rucker-Co's Balloon for Two, or in the opposite direction as an irruption of a sidewalk space into the volume of the building, or more subtly as an interstitial band that insinuates itself between exterior and interior (like SANAA's Toledo Glass Pavilion).

Although it is a free-standing object, Didier Faustino's One Square-Meter House, illustrates how a combination of precise spatial configuration and material effect can transform something like a domicile into an engagement with a public plaza while preserving the privacy of its occupants. The construction of a similar engagement will be key to the success of this studio. We do not want to simply provide an escape from the city, but to invent spaces of privacy interface with the city itself.



Above:  
Bruce Gilden. *New York*, 1979. (detail)  
Stuart Franklin. *Children playing in a vandalised phone box*. Salford England, 1986. (detail)

Left:  
Student project: Chia Sheng Wei for a spatial intervention into the urban fabric of a Guangzhou t village, 2019.



Assuming sufficiently detailed site data can be acquired, the studio will likely operate in the old quarter of Hoàn Kim, Hanoi. This neighborhood is a dense and congested area composed mostly of a unique, local building typology of tall, narrow façades. While a great deal of daily life takes place on the streets and sidewalks, there is little support for these activities from the built environment.

### Program

Design projects will focus on a space for one or two people, the exact program of these designs will be defined individually as a translation of a broader urban quality also measured at the large scale.



### Learning Outcomes

Conducting and critically instrumentalizing urban analysis;  
 Familiarity with assemblage urbanism thought and the sociomaterial construction of space;  
 Designing at cross-scalar outputs including fabrication of large-scale sectional models.

*Above, Left to Right:*  
 Haus-Rucker-Co, Balloon for Two, Vienna, 1969.  
 Didier Faustino, One Square-Meter House, Paris,  
 SANAA, Glass Pavilion, Toledo, 2006.

*Right:*  
 A wall surface fabricated with variable depth and porosity, sculpted around. The joining technique is loosely hinged and has elements of a textile in its materiality, but the surface is rigid enough to be self-supporting.

