

In Spring 2024 there will be a 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 on-line form issued on Nov 11th. Second year students are asked to submit three preferences with the reasoning by November 22nd. Studio numbers will be balanced and the rosters will be published on Dec 4th.

1. Sarosh Anklesaria
2. Theo Issaias
3. Steve Lee
4. Misri Patel
5. Tuliza Sindi

SEVEN FIRES PROPHECY

Conjuring Ground Embassies

You are to look for a turtle shaped island that is linked to the purification of the earth. You will find such an island at the beginning and end of your journey. There will be seven stopping places along the way. You will know the chosen ground has been reached when you come to a land where food grows on water. If you do not move you will be destroyed (Benton-Banai, 1988).

'Seven Fires Prophecy' comprises seven Anishinaabe prophecies that mark phases, or epochs, in the life of the people on Turtle Island, the original name given by the indigenous peoples of the now North American continent. The Seven Fires Prophecy is said to still be in the process of being fulfilled (with Fires Five and Six currently playing out) and contains key spiritual teachings and information on North America's futures.

The seven Prophecies, which later became referred to as the seven 'Fires', were delivered by eight prophets in seven different time periods over one hundred years before the British conquered most of the land to the East of the Mississippi river during the Seven Years War of 1756-1763. The teachings of the Fires predicted the arrival of colonial forces, and although this resulted in dramatic trajectory changes for the North American continent, the manifestations of the Fires are said to have remained undeterred. The final Fire outlines that at the point when the world is in a state of befoulment, human beings will have but two options to choose from; materialism or spirituality, where the former choice will lead to survival (and the lighting of Fire Eight), and the latter will lead to our collective end.

The intent of the Studio is to understand the potential spatial futures that are unfolding through the Seven Fires Prophecy, toward the realization of Fire Seven's redemptive arc. The Studio will work across several timescapes, where the Seven Years War event, as well as and the Fort Pitt Block House site (whose histories were generally predicted through Fire Four) will provide the mythological gateway into Pittsburgh's - and the North American continent's - spatial frameworks and material futures.

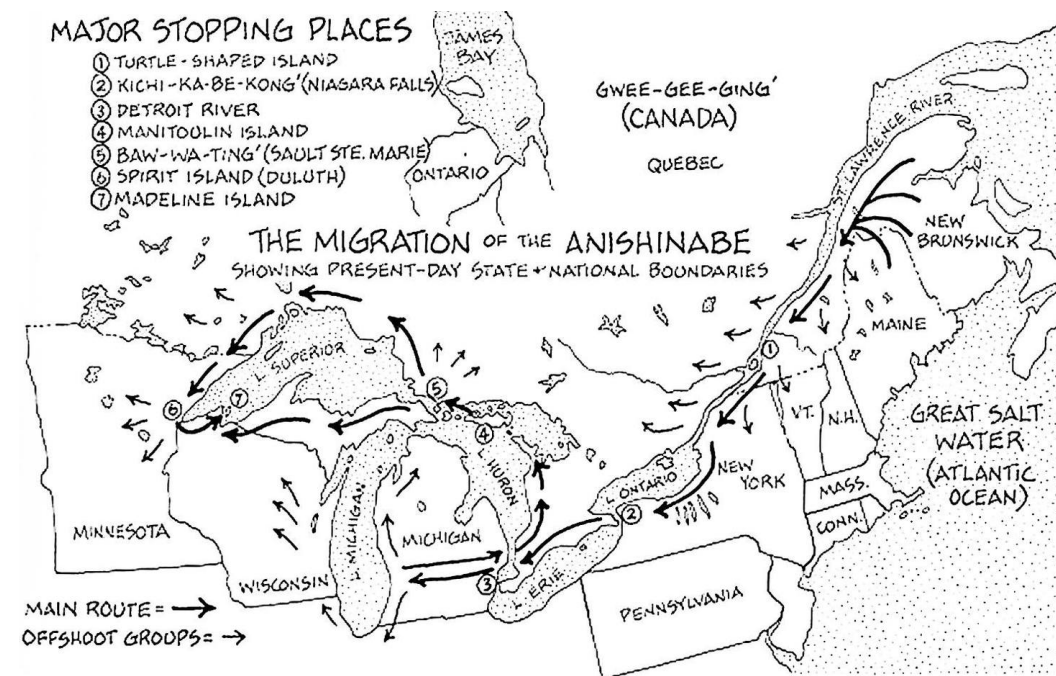
The Studio asks how architecture can once more operate as a tool that not only maintains or reconfigures inherited spatial systems, but derives them anew. To accomplish this, students will learn how space structures ideological and cosmological belief systems, and how to identify and affect such systems and their trajectories through the program of an embassy, which they will approach as a mythological instigator for how we understand the ground we are on.

References:

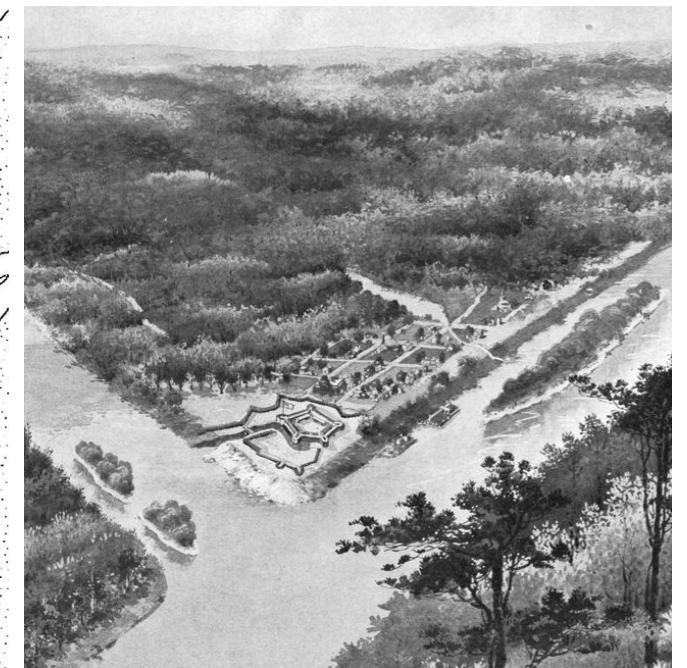
Benton-Banai, E. (1988) *The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Red School House Publishers.



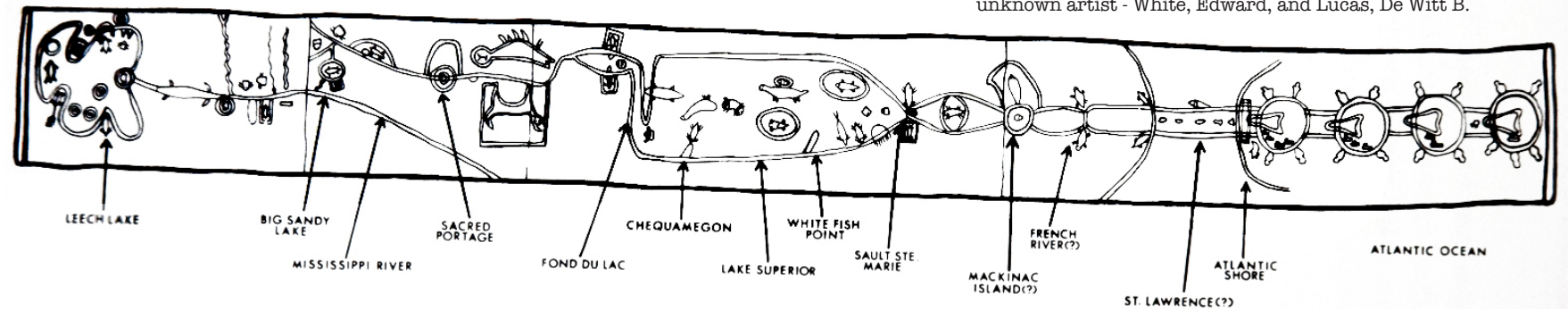
5. Tuliza Sindi MWF 2.00-4.50



The Migration of the Anishinabe Showing Present-Day State and National Boundaries. Reprinted from "The Migration of the Anishinabe," by E. Benai, 2010, *The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway*, p. 102.



Artist's interpretation of Fort Pitt in 1759 with the Allegheny (left) and Monongahela (right) rivers. At their confluence is the Ohio River, seen at the bottom. Pittsburgh Photo Engraving Co.; unknown artist - White, Edward, and Lucas, De Witt B.



Red Sky's Birchbark migration chart, crudely topographical to the left, becoming topological towards the centre, and almost cosmographical towards the right (after Dewdney). *The Decolonial Atlas*, 2015. Available at: <https://decolonialatlas.wordpress.com/2015/05/18/red-skys-migration-chart/> [Accessed 14 August 2021].