



Carnegie Mellon University

School of Architecture  
College of Fine Arts, CFA 201  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



ChiangMai Drawings, Fieldwork, and Sketches by Tommy Yang and Brian McGrath

## 48-500/48-650: Common Imaginaries: Urban Playbook for Radical Typo- Morphological Formations 18 Units Tommy CheeMou Yang

This studio fosters knowledge built off of years of engagements in [Chiang Mai, TH](#) by using Data-Field-GenerativeModeling processes through on-site fieldwork, film, and visual storytelling to explore citizen empowered design through the medium of architecture. Field work, storytelling, radical technical exposition, socio-ecologies, and the agency of narrative are key stimuli for cultivating a complex strategic program - taking sometimes impossible architectural ideas to its conclusion. *At three different scales - the city, the building, and the construction detail - we will posit an emergent status quo to establish a critical thinking position, a manifesto, and redefine the notion of the city and its architecture engaging the social, political, and economic realities.*

The studio will introduce techniques in urban forensics, animation, detailed prototyping, and typomorphological approaches drawing inspirations from Lan Na vernacular and ingenious ordinary building matrices. Processes will include sorting through historical archives, radical mapping, sampling data, visual storytelling, and physical prototyping to construct realities, practice care, build agency, and create a trans-scalar urban playbook. With a focus on locality, this studio believes that contemporary building practices can be recalibrated with the embodied knowledge of everyday stewards, ultimately transitioning object-based approaches to address systemic issues that frame contemporary architectural practice. In the face of socio-ecological justice, how do we build knowledge around material economies, local sourcing, design detailing, and the processes of design artifacts as activism? The semester-long journey will curate a comprehensive project that includes animations, detailed architectural illustrations, and scaled fabrications in the design of a multi-generational family compound. A pilot exhibit will close the design studio, holding a larger conversation around [community empowered architectural design](#), storytelling, and activism.

This studio includes an optional Field Trip to ChiangMai, Thailand August 17-26. 2023. Cost estimate is \$2,500. Other resources might include applying for CMU Crowdfunding in which the students will be advised by Professor Yang.