



Atlas of Future Explorations

Towards a Constructed Ecology in Architecture.

As a bound collection of maps, charts, tables, landscapes, data, describing the socio-spatial layers of information, an ATLAS is a tool used by geographers to aid their critical understanding and interpretation of a place. As architects, we want to investigate these layers to understand and interpret the context and its constructed ecological relationships through architectural experiments. We want to explore the notion of an architecture conceived not only by establishing a fixed program but by understanding the quality of the space under the notion of material, social and spatial exploration. This will be a position that opens the door to the social, political and comprehensive role that architects can exercise in the contemporary society. In Studio 3 our aim is to build a new ATLAS, where the architectural project performs as a testing ground for the research and reflection on contemporary urgent topics, towards the definition of new prototypes and inventions.

Site/s of Investigation

Studio 3 will explore through the course of the year three contexts: Umeå in Sweden; Rome in Italy; Reykjavík in Iceland. We will look at Umeå in the Fall term, examining the city in relation to its constructed ecologies exploring it through three main topics: Networks, Fragments and Interactions in the urban environment. In the Spring, starting from the specificity of each context we will define the relationship between architecture and the urban and natural landscape and the role of architecture in the contemporary scenario, with the aim of proposing an ATLAS of possible future explorations.

Studio 3 will uncover the multi-layered identities and dynamics which partake into the (physical and discursive) construction of the contemporary city. We will explore, investigate and represent how such dynamics are interconnected at different scales and times, locally and globally, and juxtaposing permanent and temporary fragments of the city. Students will explore the current relations between the urban fabric and its inhabitants: architects, artists, users, activists, authorities, cultural institutes, collectives, NGOs with whom the studio will interact.

Studio Agenda and Methodology

Atlas of future explorations is a research design studio operating collectively over 28 weeks. The Studio will collaborate with the project "Reuse a space – Retake a place" led by the Scandinavian Institute for artists and researchers in Rome in collaboration with the South Icelandic Biennial, UMA, Buildmuseet, and the Swedish Cultural Institute, involving architects and artists based in the three different countries. Socio-spatial research and production will follow a fixed methodology of sequential series of investigations. The students will explore a series of tools during the architectural project and follow a methodology based on iterative and explorative use of model making and production of drawing, documents and installations.

Studio 3 will go beyond the physical description and traditional mapping methodologies to design future scenarios starting from the notion of place. Through our bodies we will experience the urban fabric, through our senses we will fall in love with the architecture and its inhabitants, through our knowledge we will be able to understand the heritage as the most important value that is transmitted from one generation to the following one.

Studio introduction: Wednesday 01 SEP at 13.00 hrs, Zoom

