



WATERLOO ARCHITECTURE
MASTER'S THESIS REVIEW

08-06-21 9:00am-6:00pm EDT

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SCHEDULE

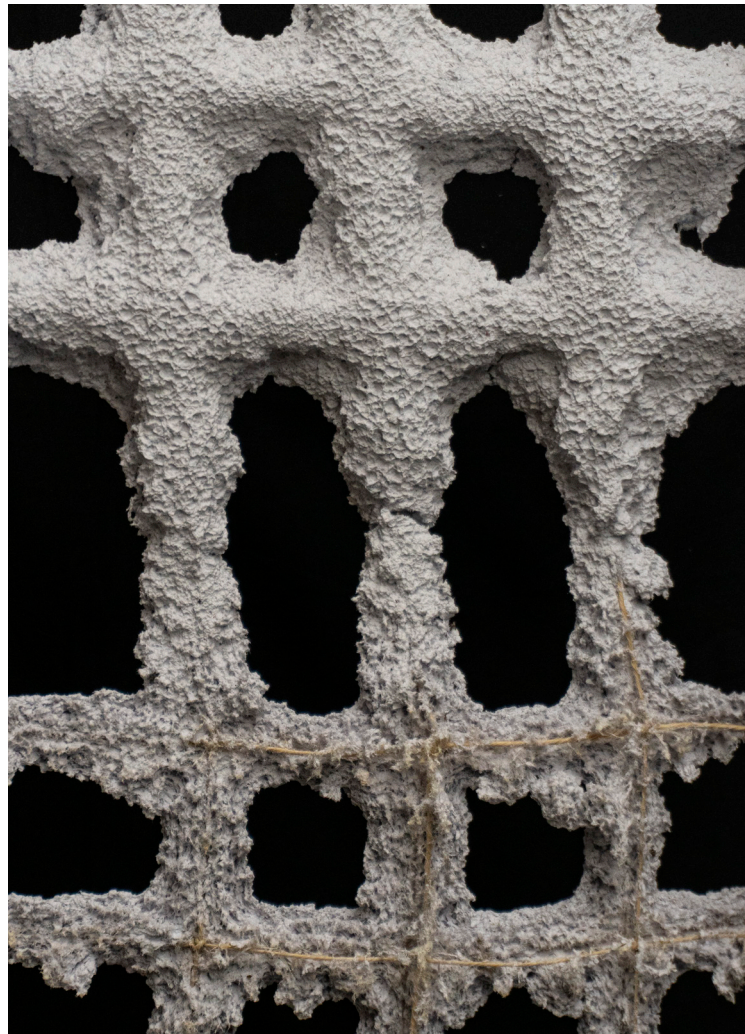
TIME	STUDENT	SUPERVISOR(S)	READER	INTERNAL- EXTERNAL	EXTERNAL
9:00AM	Ethan Schwartz	David Correa/ Maya Przybylski	Rick Andrighetti	Terri Meyer Boake	Salim Filali
	Meaghan McKinley	Val Rynnimeri	Rick Haldenby	Tracey Eve Winton	Anne Cormier
10:30AM	Emma Moseley	Philip Beesley	Val Rynnimeri	John McMinn	Anwar Jaber
	Manav Kelawala	Marie-Paule Macdonald	Tracey Eve Winton	Adrian Blackwell	Salim Filali
	Tulsi Vadalía	Rick Andrighetti	Rick Haldenby	Jane Hutton	Anne Cormier
1:30PM	Prateek Wason	Jonathan Enns/ Maya Przybylski	John McMinn	Val Rynnimeri	Michelle Fenton
	Hanieh Mobini	Terri Meyer Boake	Tracey Eve Winton	Mohamad Araji	Delnaz Yekrangian/ Anwar Jaber
3:00PM	Cynthia Eng	Terri Meyer Boake	Rick Andrighetti	Jane Hutton	Salim Filali
	Sarah Miri	Marie-Paule Macdonald	Tracey Eve Winton	Joan Coutu	Delnaz Yekrangian/ Anwar Jaber
4:30PM	Mohamad Hosseini	Terri Meyer Boake	Tracey Eve Winton	Mohamad Araji	Delnaz Yekrangian/ Anwar Jaber
	Nupur Garg	John McMinn	Rick Andrighetti	Jonathan Enns	Michelle Fenton

ETHAN SCHWARTZ	Sprayed Paper Pulp Structures: Design and fabrication using a novel system for architectural applications
MEAGHAN MCKINLEY	The Walk Home: Reimagining the Ontario Greenbelt's Commuter Rail Communities
EMMA MOSELEY	Re-wilding the Neighborhood: Discovering Ecological Harmony Through Design with Habitats Along the Oak Ridges Trail
MANAV KELAWALA	Artisanal Studios for Gujarat, India: Reviving the Textile and Print Craft by design of architectural studios for rural artisans integrated in the urban fabric of Ahmedabad
TULSI VADALIA	Retrofitting Tarmac Wastelands: Designing for Ecological and Social Permeability
PRATEEK WASON	T.U.R.F. (Transformative Urban Rooftop Farming): Alleviating Food Insecurity in Toronto
HANIEH MOBINI	In search of the lost childhood: Redefining the street children care centers of Tehran
CYNTHIA ENG	Nature Nurtures: Architectural Greenery to Support Healing in Canadian Hospitals
SARAH MIRI	Reviving an ancient urban district of Tehran with a contemporary landscape design derived from Persian garden carpet and miniature painting traditions
MOHAMAD HOSSEINI	Neighborhood Redefinition: Creating Culture in the Landscape of Interstitial Spaces in the New Town of Pardis, Iran
NUPUR GARG	Home Reconfigured: Adaptability as a solution in Mumbai to help people stay in place

Sprayed Paper Pulp Structures:
Design and fabrication using a novel system
for architectural applications

Ethan Schwartz

Supervisors: David Correa/ Maya Przybylski
Committee Member/ Reader: Rick Andrighetti
Internal- External: Terri Meyer Boake
External Reviewer: Salim Filali
9:00AM EDT



ABSTRACT

This thesis presents an investigation into a novel composite fabrication method that makes use of wastepaper fiber sprayed upon plant-based string to construct free-form, thin-shell structures for temporary use cases, focusing on show booths and shading structures. Building upon experience constructing the first of its kind Pulp Pavilion by Ball-Nogues Studios, this research seeks to document and understand how the material and process would perform when optimized for lightness and minimum material usage.

Shell structures are among the most materially efficient for their constructed volume. Thin-shell design methodology has evolved over the past century from using geometric principles, to scale models taking advantage of natural forces, to mathematically calculated free forms. Today digital modeling and simulation tools are available to designers that allow for faster digital prototyping and a less restrictive design language. Block Research Group, an innovator in thin-shell structures, released RhinoVAULT, a funicular form finding plugin. This software has been previously utilized to create masonry vault forms and will be a tool used for form finding in this thesis. Using RhinoVAULT, its thrust network creation and analysis capabilities, in combination with the paper pulp composite, a new system for design and construction will be tested.

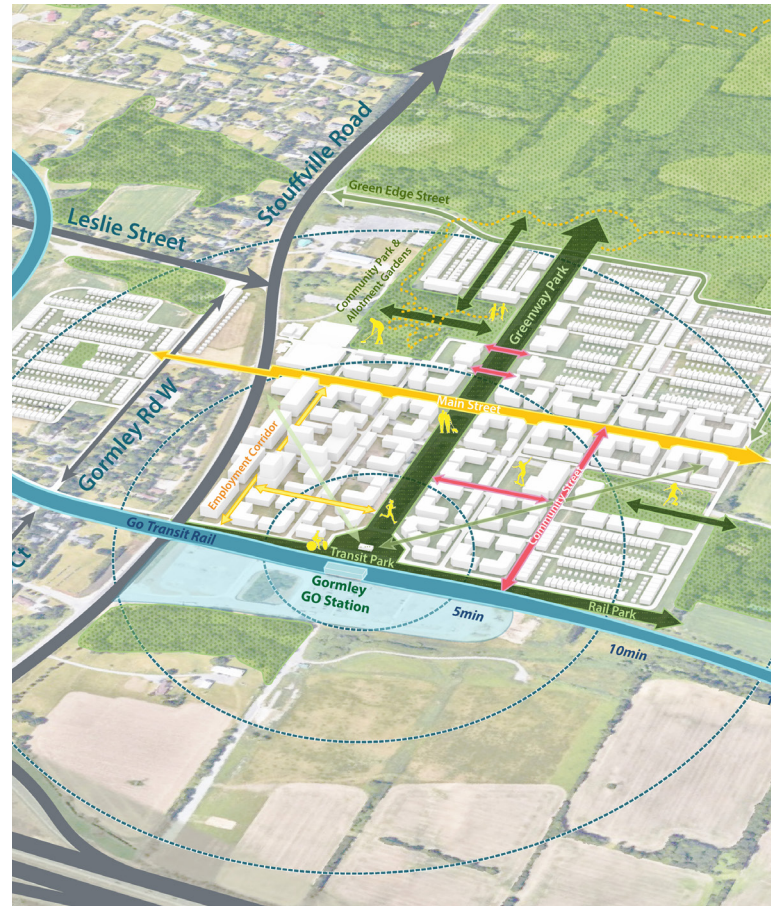
A series of experiments are conducted, documenting material properties and qualities. Starting from the simple application of pulp to the formwork, understanding how the material wants to behave. Then furthering with the fabrication of simple forms to test various methods of adding strength and beginning to log emerging characteristic of the composite. A final set of prototypes will be made using RhinoVAULT for form generation, and these will begin to inform experiential feeling. The culmination of these findings are used in a study of a full scale design of a multi-use temporary structure, giving an idea of how one could occupy the space.

This research will offer insight into the process from start to finish. Prototyping serves to develop fabrication techniques, outlining challenges and opportunities for further architectural design. With a natural fiber based composite architecture, designers will have the ability to rapidly design and affordably build freeform organic shaped shell structures without the need for high embodied energy materials.

The Walk Home: Reimagining the Ontario Greenbelt's Commuter Rail Communities

Meaghan McKinley

Supervisor: Val Rynnimeri
Committee Member/ Reader: Rick Haldenby
Internal- External: Tracy eve Winton
External Reviewer: Anne Cormier
9:00AM EDT



ABSTRACT

Dominated by a low-density urban sprawl growth model post-WW2, the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) has expanded rapidly without limitation resulting in extensive exhaustion of its open space, greenfield lands, and a mounting pressure to push beyond the boundary of the Ontario Greenbelt to accommodate further suburban growth. The Greenbelt is inundated with proposals by municipalities and developers alike. These proposals threaten to eat up large swaths of productive farmland, destroying forests and wetlands with continuations of the same suburban sprawl, industrial parks along the Metrolinx commuter rail corridors, and the 404 Highway.

This thesis is positioned at the boundary between the urban sprawl in the region, and the valuable agricultural and ecological lands protected within the Greenbelt. The work lays out a case study for a new development model based on existing or planned commuter rail stations. The model will seek to preserve and protect the most valuable lands and boundaries of the Ontario Greenbelt from the type of extensive, piecemeal urban development presently nibbling away at its ecological territory and integrity. The design proposes a complete middle density, transit oriented, mixed-use community around Richmond Hill's Gormley Go station: a station presently isolated in the middle of farmers' fields accessible principally by the park-and-ride commuter. This thesis presents the argument for a dense, interactive, and walkable community around the station – one that is focused on the vitality of the pedestrian experience, while maintaining the natural heritage of the greenbelt lands around it.

Re-wilding the Neighborhood: Discovering Ecological Harmony Through Design with Habitats Along the Oak Ridges Trail

Emma Moseley

Supervisor: Philip Beesley
Committee Member/ Reader: Val Rynnimeri
Internal- External: John McMinn
External Reviewer: Anwar Jaber

10:30AM EDT

[TEAMS LINK](#)



ABSTRACT

This thesis is a reflection on the impacts of suburban sprawl on ecosystem health and biodiversity in York Region, using a design proposal to repopulate pollinator habitat within the fabric of an existing neighborhood. The key research questions concern both the environmental and social consequences of a monotonous suburban landscape on our collective sense of community and emplacement. Drawing on existing theory from both scientific and poetic disciplines such as the essays of Wendell Berry and Lawrence Halprin, the design seeks to contribute a model of re-wilding based on public participation and cooperation with wildlife that has agency in the process. Using the conservation initiatives along the Oak Ridges Trail as a case study, the thesis will first explore the role of site study in the design process, understanding the landscape a living being with a history and future as opposed to a blank slate to be built over. Expanding on this idea, the design proposal will include a main public garden and designs for patches and channels of vegetation that will create a contiguous network. If successful, this proposal will act as a model which could potentially be replicated across multiple neighborhoods to impact at a regional scale.

Artisanal Studios for Gujarat, India: Reviving the Textile and Print Craft by design of architectural studios for rural artisans integrated in the urban fabric of Ahmedabad

Manav Kelawala

Supervisor: Marie-Paule MacDonald
Committee Member/ Reader: Tracey Eve Winton
Internal- External: Adrian Blackwell
External Reviewer: Salim Filali
10:30AM EDT
[TEAMS LINK](#)



ABSTRACT

The thesis aims to develop an architectural strategy as a comprehensive and creative platform for traditional artisans of Gujarat to strengthen and promote the rich textile and printing crafts through architecture design. The project proposes that architecture can integrate the rural craftwork in the day-to-day life of people and create a positive environment that encourages the local community. Previous architectural interventions and projects like Sanskriti Kendra (A craft village) and SEWA (a social organization) provided a social platform for the craftsmen practicing the forgotten craft. However, these approaches proved less successful in terms of immediate experience of the working process of the art in an urban setting. To integrate the craft and craftwork process in the urban fabric, spatial programming by adapting the craft in new architectural ways is the key approach. This will be carried out by developing rhythmic and comfortable spaces for both craftsmen and visitors as participants.

The thesis incorporates photographic documentation, GIS mapping, sketches to study the immediate context, amalgamation of drawings, digital presentation, and techniques for the final presentation. This research proposes an alternative approach to designing the spaces for indigenous artisans by integrating contemporary architectural spaces with creative programs that allow the people to connect with the rich tradition of craft. This design approach would analyze factors that led to the decline, in order to encourage a craft resurgence.

Retrofitting Tarmac Wastelands: Designing for Ecological and Social Permeability

Tulsi Vadalía

Supervisor: Rick Andrighetti
Committee Member/ Reader: Rick Haldenby
Internal- External: Jane Hutton
External Reviewer: Anne Cormier
10:30AM EDT



ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates urban strategies to restore ecological and social permeability in under-utilised tarmac surfaces of commercial and industrial areas built on ecologically sensitive sites. The city of Toronto has seen urban development where the natural flow of many creeks and ravines had been dramatically altered and re-engineered to flow through concrete culverts buried beneath the vast fields of impervious asphalt surfaces (parking lots), commercial complexes, industrial or residential development.

One such site is the Leaside Industrial and Business area that sits on the path of the buried Walmsley brook, a part of the Don River watershed. This site is surrounded by the Don Valley on three sides has been facing major ecological challenges like flooding due to the presence of vast areas of impervious surfaces. The area also faces social challenges, like a disconnect between the Leaside and Thorncliffe Park Neighborhoods and the gradual loss of affordable housing. The site has a significant industrial past and, over the years, saw retail encroachment with the arrival of Smartcentres and other big boxes. With the Eglinton LRT coming up and the development pressure, many industrial companies are migrating to suburbs, giving rise to underutilized industrial and commercial spaces. The site is ripe for transformation and has the potential to explore alternate ways for redevelopment.

The design strategies address the aspects of permeability at different scales— from surface permeability, designing for flooding, reviving parts of the buried hydrology, and parallelly strengthening the social aspects.

They are:

1. Imagining a post-automobile city and a future of retail that is not car-centric, which focuses more on pedestrian movement and public transit.
2. Promoting Anti-Asphalt Parking Lots and utilizing all the strategies to increase surface permeability, starting from the scale of surface design of the parking lots to the overall perception of parking lots (as parks, gardens), moving away from the alienating continuous asphalt surfaces.
3. Ecological Restoration of a part of the creek and designing for Flood Resilience, with green roof infrastructure, constructed wetlands, and retention ponds.
4. Incorporating sites for local food production in community agriculture and local cafes to increase food security and parallelly catalyze social permeability between the two neighborhoods.
5. Balancing the Real Estate development pressure due to the Eglinton LRT, with proposals for public housing and addressing the lack of affordable housing in the area.

These strategies would address these ecological and social impermeability aspects and propose an alternate way of redeveloping the sites on buried creeks. The key impact of this research would be to question the existing approach to commercial redevelopment and explore an alternative approach, examining the transformative potential of these vast under-utilized surfaces.

T.U.R.F. (Transformative Urban Rooftop Farming):
Alleviating Food Insecurity in Toronto

Prateek Wason

Supervisor: Jonathan Enns/ Maya Przybylski

Committee Member/ Reader: John McMinn

Internal- External: Val Rynnimeri

External Reviewer: Michelle Fenton

1:30PM EDT



ABSTRACT

One in every eight Canadian households is food insecure. This accounts for 12.7% of the total population of Canada. Food insecurity, which refers to inadequate and insecure access to food due to financial constraints, has a severe effect on an individual's health and well-being. The city of Toronto has many neighborhoods that face food insecurity within their communities. The city also has an abundance of vacant rooftop space that does not compete with other urban use. How can urban agriculture on these vacant rooftops help in solving the problems of food insecurity in these vulnerable neighborhoods? Current urban agriculture practices in Toronto are limited to seasonal community farms aimed to feed a handful of the population and focus on enriching the community. However, research dictates that rooftops can be used for food production using the principles and technologies of building integrated agriculture (BIA). But little research is available to discuss how urban agriculture on a building can aid the food insecure population of the city. BIA on underutilized rooftops across the food insecure neighborhoods in the city of Toronto can act as an agent to alleviate the challenge of food insecurity. The research involves analyzing existing buildings in dense urban environments that have incorporated BIAs and understanding the different farming systems used by these buildings. Neighborhoods in Toronto that suffer from food insecurity are treated as test sites for implementing the researched BIA systems. The BIA proposal also aims to track the changes in the day-to-day life of the building residents. Integration of BIA within the city is beneficial for the people, the urban environment, and climate change in general. This local production of food will not contribute towards alleviating food insecurity but also bring people closer to food production and reduce the impacts of food production on the climate by reducing food miles.

In search of the lost childhood:
Re-imagining street children care centers in Tehran

Hanieh Mobini

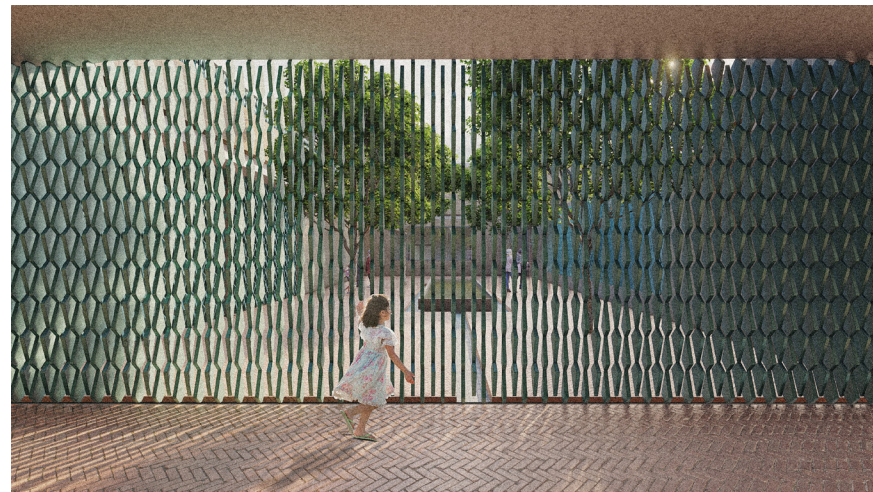
Supervisor: Terri Meyer Boake

Committee Member/ Reader: Tracey Eve Winton

Internal- External: Mohamad Araji

External Reviewer: Delnaz Yekrangian / Anwar Jaber

1:30PM EDT



ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of street children is a serious social issue in developing countries such as Iran. Despite the unavailability of official statistics, unofficial data determine that over 200,000 street children currently settle in Iran's large cities. More than a decade ago, the unofficial estimations revealed that about 20,000 street children were living in Tehran, the country's capital city.

These children face various risks and obstacles, including poverty, hygiene problems, mental health issues, delayed development, and education based on gender, age, ethnicity, and disability. Moreover, most of them are not granted the privilege and right to have a safe home and attend public school, resulting in their social misconduct in the future. Among them, street girls are more vulnerable to ongoing physical and physiological harm such as sexual violence. This group also faces stricter social and cultural limits than males, which restrain their freedom and development in various ways. Thus, the space in which they spend time for rehabilitation should be cautiously programmed and designed, ensuring their safety, comfort, and freedom of activities through their healing process.

Nowadays, some NGOs provide these children shelter and education in large Iranian cities; however, most of these temporary accommodations lack the required environmental and programming qualities to support the children's, especially girls' physical and psychological well-being. This thesis investigates the role of architecture in the rehabilitation and nurturing process of the street girls of Tehran through how a childcare center can go beyond a shelter and offer a sense of belonging and home to children in need and their mothers.

Through Archival research, case studies, and based on the literature on street Children's needs and architecture specifications for them, the proposed child center will be designed to rethink the typology of existing centers to be a place more than a shelter or a classroom. It will be developed to become a safe place that reconnects the children with their actual needs and livelihood. The center also hopes to take long-term social measures by offering programs that target illiterate and unemployed mothers in the community. This thesis aims to use architecture as a device to improve the quality of living and educational experience in street children's facilities to accelerate their rehabilitation process through spatial design, connection with nature, and introducing Iranian cultural values and motifs.

Nature Nurtures: Architectural Greenery to Support Healing in Canadian Hospitals

Cynthia Eng

Supervisor: Terri Meyer Boake
Committee Member/ Reader: Rick Andrighetti
Internal- External: Jane Hutton
External Reviewer: Salim Filali
3:00PM EDT



ABSTRACT

How can living plant systems be combined with healthcare facility architecture to increase beneficial interactions with nature, while still maintaining healthcare standards of safety, efficiency, and control? Nature can provide healing benefits to hospital occupants by lifting their spirits and by counteracting the difficulties of fighting illness. Architectural designers can help to create more positive hospital environments by utilizing vegetation as a building material and in building systems. Vertical and raised greenery systems such as living walls, green façades, and green roofs can deliver more accessible green spaces in dense, urban hospital sites. Greenery systems can also create synergistic relationships between plant life and functional healthcare programs.

This thesis analyzes the benefits, costs, and challenges of greenery system typologies and their various construction types. Demonstrated are architectural designs for key patient and visitor spaces in a hypothetical patient tower on an existing Canadian hospital redevelopment site. Within this design, greenery systems support long-term care patients of specialty units like rehabilitation, palliative care, acute elderly care, and mental health. By providing knowledge about the application of architectural greenery systems, this thesis promotes a sustainable design of greenery systems and a plant-based philosophy to the way hospitals are envisioned, and health care is achieved.

Reviving an ancient urban district of Tehran with a contemporary landscape design derived from Persian garden carpet and miniature painting traditions

Sarah Miri

Supervisor: Marie-Paule Macdonald

Committee Member/ Reader: Tracey Eve Winton

Internal- External: Joan Coutu

External Reviewer: Delnaz Yekrangian/ Anwar Jaber

3:00PM EST



ABSTRACT

This comprehensive urban landscape design proposes to revive one of the oldest neighborhoods of Tehran, called Borazjan, located in the historical district of Oudlajan. In recent decades, the ancient urban fabric of Tehran has been altered significantly due to the new policies, economic alterations, and modern urban planning procedures. Likewise, Borazjan Alleyway has lost its former glory. Due to a failed square construction project in Borazjan, many valuable historical buildings were ruined and abandoned. But many outstanding ornamental elements remain on the walls around the site.

Since the 1970s, several revitalization plans were proposed, and most of them failed because they sought to change the existing situation by rejecting traditions and history and destroying the old to build up the new modern projects that contrast with the rest of the traditional fabric. This issue is addressed in this design. A meaningful link between heritage and its social environment has been established by creating concrete ways for residents to feel that culture can thrive where they live and portray hope. Renewed references to Persian history, culture, and art become tools of knowledge to revive Borazjan. The Persian Garden, which is more of a community garden, is used as the most fundamental characteristic of a gathering place to turn the unused open space of Borazjan into a safe synergetic environment.

The design portrays the proposal social programs and landscape design inspired by the Persian garden tradition, its relation to the Persian carpet, and its depiction in Persian miniature paintings. The design proposal updates the contemporary Borazjan, thereby merging past and present activities and socio-economic demands. As well as the social realm, the design focuses on the microclimate effects of the proposed landscape that include temperature, humidity, and fragrance, to create a pleasing environment responsive to Tehran's climate. The proposal intensifies historical awareness by preserving and exhibiting the ancient walls and ornamental elements around the site within a contemporary landscape.

Neighborhood Redefinition: Creating Culture in the
Landscape of Interstitial Spaces in the New Town of
Pardis, Iran

Mohamad Hosseini

Supervisor: Terri Meyer-Boake

Committee Member/ Reader: Tracey Eve Winton

Internal- External: Mohamad Araji

External Reviewer: Delnaz Yekrangian / Anwar Jaber

4:30PM EDT



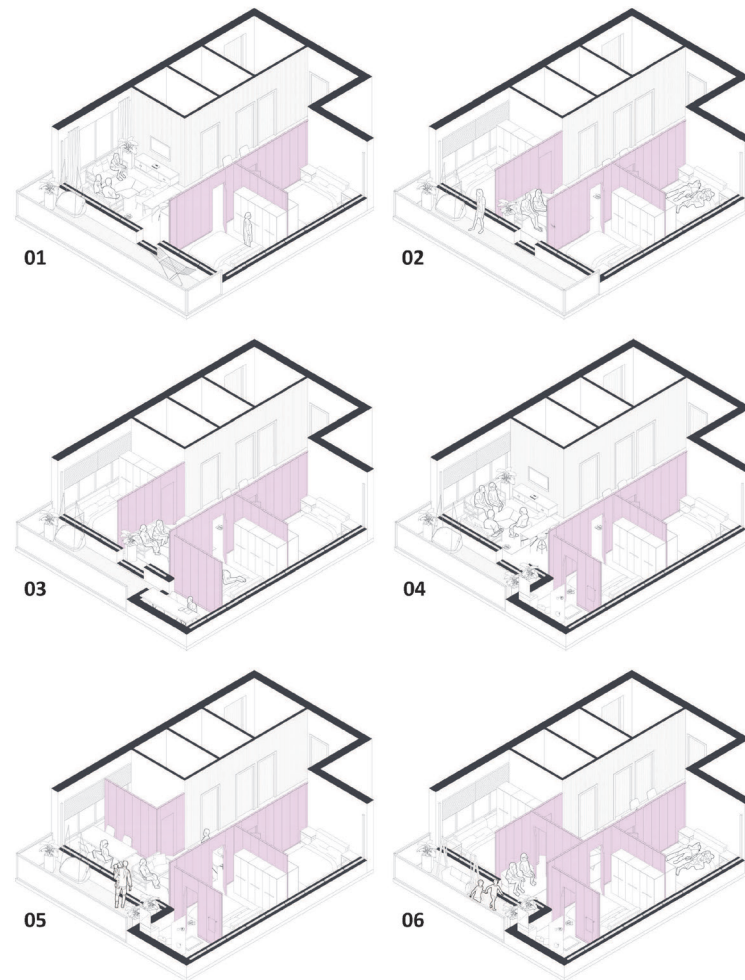
ABSTRACT

Housing developments forming “new towns” adjacent to the metropolitan cities in Iran were aimed to accommodate low-income households. However, after a decade of occupancy, the inhabitants of these towns are struggling with inadequate facilities to provide human interaction within their neighborhoods. This thesis aims to repurpose the landscape of interstitial spaces between the residential towers in the new town of Pardis to address this deficiency. The current development model has created isolated residential point towers which create a desolate landscape in the spaces between. The thesis proposes multipurpose social activities as a means of connection that encourages social interaction. This research tackles the current issue by examining cultural elements of more traditional Iranian neighborhoods and adapting them in the context of the Pardis new town. Precedents of successful existing neighborhood landscapes with similar climate are additionally studied. Subsequently, after analyzing the overall Pardis site, a portion of it is chosen as a prototype to investigate the issue in a more detailed human scale using extensive site photos integrated into 3D models. This prototypical study could eventually be applied to other areas in Pardis as well as similar new to enhance the living quality of residents.

Home Reconfigured: Adaptability as a solution in Mumbai to help people stay in place

Nupur Garg

Supervisor: John McMinn
Committee Member/ Reader: Rick Andrighetti
Internal- External: Jonathan Enns
External Reviewer: Michelle Fenton
4:30PM EST



ABSTRACT

With the continuously rising employment, businesses, investments, and consequently migration, the housing prices of Mumbai have skyrocketed over the past few decades. The house bought on a mortgage, or rented at cheap rates back in the day, is passed down for generations to grow into due to the inability to afford/shift in a new home. This leads to people compromising on their needs, in a rigid home, throughout their life. We need a solution to allow the residents to take agency over the design of their apartments while still maintaining the benefits of typical housing. The research, therefore, questions how can our existing housing typologies undergo adjustment as people's lives change? Can we design mass housing apartments in dense urban cities, like Mumbai, India, that provides the residents' autonomy over their spatial layouts? What are the ways people can change the spatial layout of their apartments to better suit their changing requirements and expectations? To incorporate the multifunctionality, adaptability theories present in the housing industry are researched to help incorporate time as a design variable and help people stay in place. A lot of research has been done individually for different adaptable elements and systems in a residential building like open building plans, movable partitions, home kits, and incremental housing, but previous work has failed to address an approach that combines the advantages of each and apply the system in the cultural context of Mumbai. To achieve this goal, the thesis investigates the opportunity of providing a better home for the residents by reimagining a new typology that changes with time and supports the residents' ability to stay in place without making the building redundant in the future years. Residents of housing development in Mumbai are interviewed to understand the problems they face while living in a standardized apartment. These findings, combined with the present theories and case studies, are used to design an apartment prototype with a new adaptable system that provides residents agency over their space and configure the spatial layout that works best for them. This thesis helps in reducing the rigidity of a housing design while also giving the residents' decision-making power in the design of their homes and allows them to stay in place comfortably.

GUEST CRITICS

MICHELLE FENTON

Michelle graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Masters of Architecture (2002) and Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degrees (1998). Her thesis, based on cultivating authentic spaces by identifying and celebrating established ritual and collective memory, won the Outstanding Thesis of the Year award.

As principal at Khôra Architecture + Interiors, Michelle has worked with several commercial, corporate and institutional clients, helping them navigate through intensive public and employee engagement processes, to design and develop spaces that represent their corporate identity in an authentic way, rethinking the space to incorporate diversity, flexibility, and a dynamic and happy environment.

Michelle's particular interests lie in creating well-articulated PLACES through stakeholder consultation and intuitive design. In addition to her design credits, Michelle's knowledge of building practices allows her to adapt quickly and appropriately to construction issues in a detailed and comprehensive way.

Some of Michelle's past design experience includes working as a project architect at Hughes Condon Marler Architects on such notable and award-winning projects as the Riley Park Olympic Curling Venue master plan, Poirier Aquatic Facility in Coquitlam, and the Port Moody Recreation Centre.

Michelle continues to work with clients to identify their true culture and help make their work and learning environments healthy, progressive, and authentic to their organizational identity. Her ability to manage multiple and often competing program requirements while keeping the project on track is a great asset to our clients.

Michelle currently sits on the Architectural Institute of BC's Council and member of the Future of Architecture Task Force.

SALIM EL FILALI

At the age of nineteen, Salim El Filali came to Canada from Morocco to start his bachelor's degree in architecture at Université de Montréal. After graduating in 2014, he decided to settle in Montreal and worked for two years for a small architecture office called Archidesign Inc. In addition, Salim completed his Master of Architecture degree at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture. Besides, "Connecting with Clean Water" was a project Salim developed at school with his teammate Amirhesam Monshi and professor Terri Meyer Boake, and received an honorable mention, 4th place, by "the Design that Educates Award 2019" in Germany. Salim compiles six terms of teaching experience as a teaching assistant and sessional instructor at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture, and three terms as a sessional instructor at the McEwen School of Architecture at Laurentian University, all being studio courses. He recently went back to the practice with WalterFedy.

DELNAZ YEKRANGIAN

Delnaz Yekrangian is the founder and director of Aleph-Bau; an architecture and design studio experimenting with poetics of architecture in anything and everything from materials to cities. With an emphasis on tectonics, the studio uses interior spaces, buildings, cityscapes, furniture, objects and installations as a medium to amplify the sensory, imaginative and intellectual relationship to the environment. Prior to joining Uwaterloo, Delnaz taught design at Daniel's Faculty of Architecture at UofT. She has undertaken extensive research on the revitalization of underutilized urban spaces including deteriorating historic cities of Iran while studying at Beheshti University in Tehran, University of Toronto, and Harvard GSD.

ANWAR JABER

Anwar Jaber, BEng, MPhil, PhD (Cantab), is an interdisciplinary researcher and urban scholar interested in the cultural and socio-political aspects of architecture and urbanism. Her interdisciplinary research explores the meaning and change of the urban environment in cities facing extreme conditions, such as violent conflicts. She completed her MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies (2014) and PhD in Architecture (2020) at the University of Cambridge in England, where she worked under the supervision of Professor Wendy Pullan at the Centre for Urban Conflicts Research. Her PhD thesis is entitled 'The Paradox of Ramallah: An Investigation into Palestine's Political and National Architecture and Urban Topography Since 1995'. It spatially investigates the emerging political and national buildings in the city of Ramallah in Palestine, built under the Palestinian state-building project. The thesis offers a new interpretation of the physical transformation of the city into a Palestinian political centre within the Palestinian struggle to establish a state, and under the larger Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Anwar brings an international academic and professional experience from the Middle East and Europe. Before joining Cambridge, she obtained her bachelor degree in Architectural Engineering from Birzeit University in Palestine (2013). She also practiced as a licensed architect and urban planner in a Jerusalem-based NGO, where she developed urban plans for marginalized Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem in collaboration with the local community. At the University of Cambridge, Anwar taught two RIBA-certified undergraduate courses on Divided cities and Islamic Architecture. She also co-edited Scroope 25 (the Cambridge Architecture Journal) and organized several conferences, including the one entitled 'Spatial Articulations of Collective Identities in the Context of Middle Eastern Cities', for which she received a full funding award from the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities. She was also awarded the two prestigious Cambridge Trust and Said-Churchill Scholarships for her studies. In addition, she serves as an editor for the Arab Urbanism Magazine in both Arabic and English.

ANNE CORMIER, MOAQ, MIRAC

Anne Cormier is an architect. She has a bachelor's degree in architecture from McGill University and a Certificat d'études approfondies en architecture urbaine from the Paris-Villemin school of architecture, where she wrote a dissertation on development projects and the transformation of Paris in the early 20th century.

Ms. Cormier is co-founder of Atelier Big City (Cormier, Cohen, Davies, architects), a group of Montreal architects recognized for the quality of its architectural and urban projects. Founded in 1987, Atelier Big City received the Prix de Rome in Architecture from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Governor General's medal and the grand prize in architecture from the Ordre des architectes du Québec. The group has presented and shown its work in Quebec, Canada and abroad and has been invited to teach at Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Toronto and University of Calgary.

Anne Cormier is an Associate Professor at the School of Architecture at Université de Montréal, where she has served as director from 2007 to 2015. She is affiliated with the Laboratoire d'étude de l'architecture potentielle (LEAP), an inter-university group dedicated to research on the design process in architecture. She is a member of the National Capital Commission's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty in Ottawa. She regularly sits on other committees dedicated to excellence in architectural and urban projects and on architectural juries.