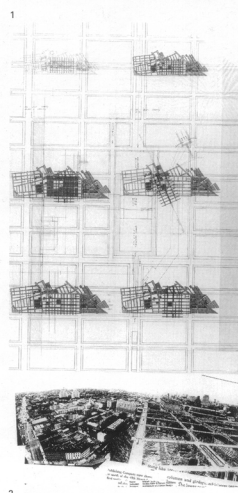
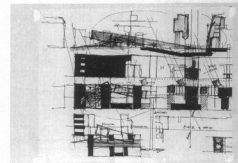


The goal of Urban Design Studio 1 is to explore the urban design process at a range of scales including local, regional, global and metropolitan. Working with three large sites - the high-density area of commercial downtown Brooklyn; the contested Riverside South site on Manhattan's west side; and the 600 acre empty Northrup Grumman production facility in Nassau County, Long Island - the studio takes advantage of the diverse built conditions in and around New York City to provoke comparisons between high and low-density urban situations. The summer studio approaches urban design as a process of negotiation between different and often conflicting forces acting in and on the city today. The work is conceived as experimental even while the sites put forth actual urban design challenges. Approaching the city as a constantly changing mix of physical conditions, abstract regulations, and unpredictable events, the studio emphasizes flexible urban configurations and interactive forms of urban knowledge. While we provide opportunities to meet with representatives from both public and private agencies currently involved with the sites under study, our students are not expected to find solutions to pre-defined problems. Instead, they are expected to discover and formulate their own lines of urban inquiry.

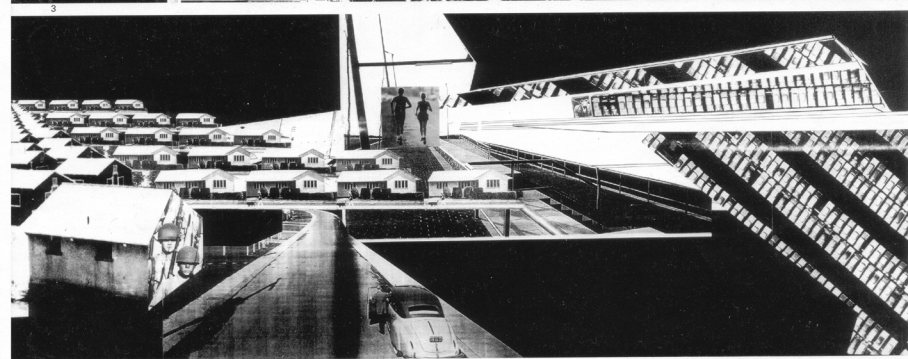
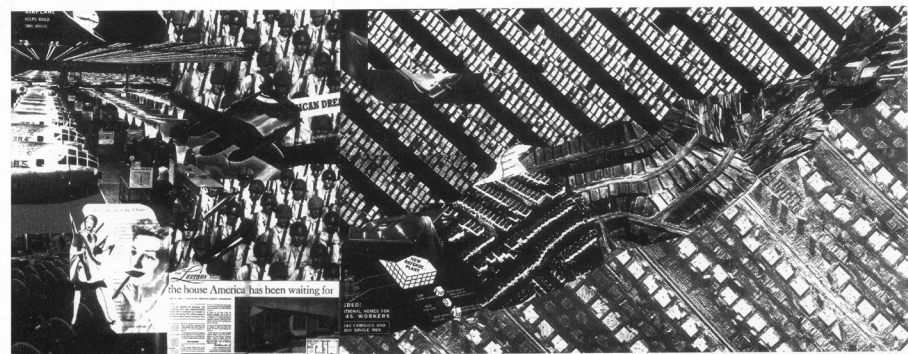
A short essay in these students refine programming intentions and consider how these condition design strategy and urban form-making. This part of the process leads to a final Critical Re-Programming operation (Phase III) when pre-existing site, programming, and design strategy assumptions are re-assessed according to the individual lines of inquiry generated by each student. In all phases of work, the studio is recognized as the initial step in a second degree program. Acknowledging the conceptual possibility of a finished city, it privileges inquiry over certainty, encouraging each individual to re-assess their pre-existing design habits in an ongoing process to discover new ways to engage the challenge of citymaking.

to question and set forth alternatives to the master-planning urban strategies associated with modernism. This first speculative project raises basic questions regarding relations between site, program, and design at the urban scale: How is an urban site represented? What does it mean to construct a designed understanding of site? How does this knowledge inform programming intentions? The work focuses on modes of site representation and how these influence concepts of site; site analysis methods in relation to representational techniques; and site programming strategies.

What follows in a concentrated effort to represent, interpret, program and project futures for three very different sites in the New York City region. This work occurs in phases to address methods of site research and their influence on fundamental programming and design decisions. Site Construction (Phase I), involves in-depth site study and interpretation. This initial work results in drawn and modeled documentation that presents a designed understanding of existing site forces and conditions. This is followed by a work of Urban Form/formation (Phase II).



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M.S. Architecture and Urban Design

Studio I Summer 95 Andrea Kahn, Sandro Marpillero, studio critics

1 2 Stefan Scheiber 3 4 Raul Gutierrez Jalgado

Istanbul and Caracas:
Two Paradigms

The third and final Urban Design Studio developed projects for Caracas, Venezuela and Istanbul, Turkey. The theoretical premise underlying this comparative dialectic engaged the possible relevance of the so-called Laws of the Indies (1573) which were the basis of Spanish colonial planning; and the Ottoman Vakıfyi or strategy for urban expansion dating from the same historical period. In differing ways both systems provided for highly rationalized urban settlement formation and growth and offer an important outlook on questions of urban identity and reconstruction today.

A dialogue exists between the sites chosen in each city. In Istanbul the project focused on the Atatürk Bulvarı, built in the 1930's brutally cutting across the Historic Peninsula, isolating the Sülemaniye and Fatih mosque complexes and fragmenting the existing mahalle or neighborhood clusters along its way. The program explored how to repair this damage. In Caracas the focus was the proposed extension of the Cota Mil, a major autoroute, through a series of barrios. Here the questions embraced how to integrate the new road within the existing fabric while seeing it as a catalyst for densification.

All students visited both sites. In Istanbul the work was organized in collaboration with the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Faculty of Architecture of the Yıldız Technical University, and the Municipality of Fatih; in Caracas with the Regional Institute for Urban Studies, Mayorality of Caracas and the Government of the Federal District. Students returned to both Istanbul and Caracas during the summer, 1996 for public presentation and discussion of their projects.

