

Fossil-Fuel-Free

Press Release:

June 5, 2032

For Immediate Release

The newly elected President and Congress have created the first new major reorganization of government in decades, initiating the Department of Solar Resources, a cabinet-level administration that puts H.U.D, the Department of Energy, FEMA, and the Department of the Interior all under the administration of Solar. The president has also issued a mandate for the nation to be fossil fuel-free by 2050 and has called on the rest of the world's nations to abandon their increasingly dangerous dependence on carbon emissions and follow suit.

In a speech at the United Nations, he stated that the United States would not only take the lead in the transition to a fossil-free future, but would actively encourage "global protest" by US-based environmental activists in acts of peaceful demonstration and civil disobedience around the world. In a nod to his activist past the President concluded with the rallying cry of his recent election campaign: "Earth First!"

Governor's Island in New York City has been chosen as the site for a Center for Solar Research and Development and a Space of Global Protest. The Dept. of Solar will build a new building as a research and teaching Institute devoted to the transition to 100% Solar. Governor's Island will also host a major new public space, designed both to perform as an integral infrastructure that removes the island from the grid and to create a space for demonstrations, teach-ins, large gatherings and concerts, with events being broadcast world-wide 24-hours a day through various forms of media.

STUDIO

This studio will be taught jointly by Chip Lord and Dan Wood, with assistance from Sam Dufaux. Chip Lord is a founder of *Ant Farm*, an avant-garde architecture, graphic arts, and environmental design practice, founded in San Francisco in 1968. Since 1978 Lord has been an experimental filmmaker and Digital Media artist and has taught in the film department at UC Santa Cruz. Dan Wood is the co-founder of WORKac in New York City, an award-winning practice that operates at the edges of the discipline and in collaboration with other fields to explore and re-invent the many intersections between architecture and the "everything else." Sam Dufaux is a Senior Associate at WORKac.

Dan Wood will lead the studio. Chip Lord will be in New York three times during the semester, for two class sessions each visit.

The studio will be in two parts. The first will be an exploration of public space and infrastructure in New York City, through the medium of video. Using minimal equipment (cell phones and iMovie software or equivalent), we will create an experimental video (or slideshow using still images) to document one of New York City's great public spaces and that deals with the studio themes of the future, optimism, climate change, public space and infrastructure.

At the same time, we will carry out a group planning exercise for Governor's Island which will include identifying an expected sea level change, modifying sea walls and common spaces as an entirely new type of public space, "crossed" with new sustainable infrastructure and technology - creating a new kind of piazza san marco, where the water is designed to come in rather than kept out. Additionally, the island must be capable of receiving refugee residents, displaced by a Sandy type storm surge, so the public spaces must be convertible to a kind of pop-up city to house and serve displaced residents. No cars are allowed on the Island - some alternative systems to move goods must be designed or acquired. (A solar funicular to lower Manhattan to replace the diesel ferry?)

The second part will be an in-depth design of the research institute. This should be a building that takes cues from the current crop of low- or zero-energy buildings (see: "A Building Not Just Green, but self-sustaining" - NY Times, Apr. 2, 2013, or "For a Premier Lab, a Zero-Energy Showcase" NY Times July 6, 2010, both attached) but takes a more radical, forward-thinking and avant garde agenda. This building should function as no other and serve as a "vision" of how future buildings will look and perform.

The building will contain:

Offices, seminar rooms, labs, and theater and auditorium for Department of Solar sponsored outreach conferences.

Other teaching spaces.

Apartments for resident grad students and scholars.

Green roof.

Rain collection, etc.

Schedule

Week 1

June 5, June 7

June 7 Chip Lord Presentation

Week 2

June 10, 12, 14

Video-making, Planning exercise

Week 3

June 17, 19, 21

Video-making, Planning exercise

Week 4

June 24, 26, 28

Building Program/strategy research

Video and Planning Exercise Due June 24

Week 5

July 1, 3, 5

Concept Design

Week 6

Concept Design, Presentation

July 8, 10, 12

July 8 – PINUP Concept Design

Week 7

July 15, 17, 19

July 15 – MIDTERM REVIEW

Week 8

July 22, 24, 26

Final Design

Week 9

July 29, 31, August 2

Final Design, Presentation

Week 10

August 5, 7

August 7 - FINAL REVIEW

ASSIGNMENTS

Exercise ONE: GOVERNOR'S ISLAND AND PUBLIC SPACES VISITS– Field Visits DUE JUNE 10

During the first weekend, take a trip to Governor's Island (<http://www.govisland.com/html/visit/directions.shtml>) and to two of the public spaces on the list below (we will decide who goes where on Friday.)

Assignment:

Observe, make notes and drawings, and shoot still photos.

At Governor's Island - walk the perimeter, visit the buildings and think about the rising sea level. Research the history of the island.

Assemble still photos and be prepared to talk on Monday about these spaces.

Exercise TWO: PUBLIC SPACE / PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE - Video DUE JUNE 24

Create an experimental video, using the most basic and ubiquitous equipment and software available, about one of the following public spaces:

The High Line

Times Square

Bryant Park

Triangle where Broadway crosses 5th Av and Madison Sq Park

Battery Park

Grand Central Station

Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, UN Park, United Nations

Tompkins Square Park

Washington Square Park

Zuccotti Park

We will discuss in detail in class, but generally:

Observe with your eyes before shooting, spend an hour just observing

Make a list of shots you would want (things you see without the camera)

Establish where we are - with the camera, not by voice-over or text added

Structure time - look for things, events that say "beginning" or "ending"

Spend a whole day in the space so that you can be there early, and late to capture "morning" and "evening"

Think about and observe how public space and public infrastructure – the systems of the city – interact or counteract each other.

Bibliography:

Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities

Michael Sorkin, Variations on A Theme Park; Twenty Minutes in Manhattan

Edward Abbey, The Monkey Wrench Gang

William H. Whyte, From: The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces

Sorkin and Copjec, Giving Ground, The Politics of Propinquity

Michael Kimmelman, A Streetcorner Serenade for the Public Plaza