INTRODUCTION

In Freudian psychology, displacement is an unconscious defence mechanism whereby the mind substitutes either a new aim or a new object for goals felt in their original form to be dangerous or unacceptable.

Unit 14 will work in the East End this year, specifically in Tower Hamlets. We will be concerned with diaspora, displacement and the indigenous. Tower Hamlets has accommodated incoming communities of Chinese, Huguenots, Jews, Italians, Bangladeshis and many others over centuries. The only constant being change and flux. Our aim will be to study communities that live in Tower Hamlets and trace their journeys into and from the East End over generations. We are concerned with the impact of gentrification, the potential to both assimilate and enjoy difference - how the social impacts on the architectural and vice-versa. The East End has been subject to massive redevelopment as a result of bomb damage in World War 2, post-war so called slum clearance and the advent of the Welfare State, itself under threat of completely being dismantled by successive national governments since the late 1970s. We will also study different building typologies within the borough: towers, terraces, low-rise high density housing and try to understand and question the matrix of public space in which they are situated. We ask if the way that the city has been transformed to privilege the motor vehicle, may be reconsidered in light of technological advances for the benefit of its citizens.

We are interested in drawing and physical modelling. We have an ongoing interest in parallel projection drawing and as we did last year will reference the microcosmic and macrocosmic in art including the Indian and Persian miniature as well as non-occidental and vernacular forms of representation.

We will range across the borough addressing cultural, socio-economic and political issues including the extremes of poverty and wealth within the borough itself and the impact on the way we procure our built environment, and will ask you to research the history/ ownership/ use of existing land and settlement in order to locate and situate your proposals appropriately.
It will be your task to invent scenarios that question the way in which land is procured in the city and to propose new ways of forming communities and livelihoods through intelligent design and building strategies. We would like you to consider the environmental impact of new development, the influence of digital technology on the way we live, work and play and its potential for social exchange. We would like you to examine the means by which such projects may be brought into being.

PROJECTS

We will carry out a series of exercises to generate individual responses to context in its widest senses. These will include:

Project 1: Oral History (a project which extends across two semesters)
Project 2: Slab block, terrace, low rise high density
Project 3: Dismantling and resetting the façade
Project 4: Unit trip to Rome
Project 5: Inventing the brief

UNIT TRIP

The unit trip will be to Rome to study the work of Vignola, Borromini, Libera, Moretti and others, focussing on facade and elevation and the gesamtkunstwerk exemplified by projects such as Villa Giulia by Vignola and Ammanati, Borromini’s Oratorio of Filippo Neri, Il Girasole by Moretti and Libera’s post office at Pyramide.

The unit has an ongoing conversation about Moscow and its hinterland with James O’Brien and Joseph Van der Steen who run the interior architecture course at the British School in Moscow and this year will also teach an MArch unit at the Moscow School of Architecture. There may also be an opportunity to visit Moscow in early March for a workshop with James, Joseph and their students.

STUDIO CULTURE

We consider architecture to be a form of research practice. Architecture as investigation, imagination and invention where ideas are imagined, sketched, drawn, written, modelled and constructed.

We are interested in creating a dynamic studio culture that is relevant to practice and we expect unit members to be curious and wide ranging about current affairs, architectural theory, literature, music, visual and material culture and their impact on the built environment.

We are interested in how environments, building and city, are procured, constructed and operated, and in their life when occupied.

We are interested in drawing - in line, colour, paper [material], the digital and expect work to be carefully judged, edited, titled and assembled.

We would like students to be playful, and imaginative in their observations and proposals.

RESEARCH

We consider all design as research, and that the fast-moving nature of contemporary architectural practice requires an open-ended approach in which practice and research are symbiotic. The programme this year will embrace a range of research agendas including:

Architecture and anthropology
Architecture and art
Performance and performativity
Land use and the politics of land procurement
City as infrastructures
Design for evolving communities
The impact of globalization on the local
Research methods will include:

Ethnography using film, literature and art practice
Measurement and relative scale – object to city
Study/ critique of national and local planning and environmental policy
Cultural engagement – methods of curation,
Material investigation – material culture

RECORDING THE CITY – INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
You will be asked to make propositional drawings as research tools for further design and to propose alternative futures. We will jointly engage in discussions about the means and methods to be used and invent new processes and procedures for documenting sites through different ways of measurement, documentation and recording – from the interior to the horizon, from earth to sky and vice versa. The procedures will assist in making judgments of scale and location.

DISPLACEMENT – THE CITY AS SET ASIDE
For a period of twenty years from 1988 to 2008 large arable farmers benefited from the notion of Set-aside, a scheme introduced by the European Economic Community to help reduce large and costly surplus in production under the guaranteed price system of the Common Agricultural Policy with the aim of delivering environmental benefits. Large scale agriculture which includes the intensive use of pesticides has bighted large parts of the countryside and damaged local ecologies.

We will investigate the way land in the city is SET ASIDE by major land owning institutions including national government, local government, Transport for London and others as well as developers in order to monopolise and ration supply of land in the UK for development no where more so than London. The issue of land use and availability has always been critical for the provision of environments for the poor and disenfranchised and this has been exacerbated by the programme of austerity imposed on the country by our national government and across the European Union for nearly a decade.

UTOPIAN CITYSCAPE
Unit 14 is interested in exploring a radical emancipatory utopianism in our programme in order to encourage students to engage with a politicized understanding of the potential role of the architect as well as an appreciation of architecture’s limits. We will reference David Harvey’s book *Spaces of Hope*, in which he distinguishes between utopias of spatial form and utopias of time. The former have been central to modernist architectural thought. Their practical and political outcomes have tended toward homogenised and totalised closure. Cosmopolitan neo-liberalism exemplifies the way utopias of time are chimical constructs in which the trickle-down effect is forever one of promise without fulfilment, engendering a politics of frustration in an environment of disenfranchisement and dislocation.

THE PROGRAMME
We are interested in the invention of new scenarios for settlements in the city that respond to and are adaptive of the existing morphology of Tower Hamlets in all its variety. Projects will focus on the provision of environments for work, play and domestic life and the design of buildings and their setting in a rich and inclusive public realm that engenders co-operation and community at various scales. We are thus interested in multi-layered and multi-scaled scenarios which are mutually dependent in positive ways without being coercive. – exploring the potential for gathering but also acknowledging the limits of freedom of movement and the need for privacy and seclusion in the city.

POTENTIAL SITES & LANDSCAPES
Students will choose a Tower Hamlets ward in which to work and will be expected to immerse themselves in it during the year as well as overlap with students working in other wards in order to evolve a position and project.
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

We aim to set up a number of workshops, walks and lectures throughout the year. Potential contributors include:

David Grandorge – Bethnal Green and Whitechapel walk
Andrew Parnell – Poplar walk
Alec Scrugg – Essex diaspora lecture
James Taylor-Foster – Burning Man
James Taylor-Foster (curator) - lecture series at The Soane
Neil Bingham, curator of 20th C Architectural Drawings V & A, presentation on the collection
Ab Rogers – Balfron Tower
Lucy Musgrave – lecture on Publica
Miraj Ahmed & Lucinda Anis – Drawing
Ana Nicolaescu and Sebastian Tiew – Photography
OMMX, Jon Lopez & Hik Nissanke - lecture
Ryan McStay and Mo Wong – Model making
Jane McAllister – lecture on her PhD research
Joe Mills – Digital effects
Tom Weaver (editor AA Files) – Edit or be Damned
Kye Sung Lee – Film and film-making
Fred Scott – lecture On Altering Architecture
Mark Wallinger – Ebbsfleet
Alma-nac, Chris Bryant, Caspar Rodgers, Tristan Wigfall - lecture
Alan Conisbee – Structural Design
Max Fordham – Environmental Design
Dean Hawkes – The Environmental Imagination
Unit 14 ex-students – Portfolio Presentations
Nabil Ahmed, options module co-ordinator workshops and reviews

THESIS DOCUMENT

Students will be invited to assemble a Thesis Document in which they declare an individual interest in response to the unit programme, to find a the site, evolve an individual agenda for the major project and make a detailed proposal for the design of a building, an ensemble of buildings – a new piece of the city.

IDS REPORT, DIARY, SKETCHBOOK

We shall commence discussions with 5th year students at an early stage with regard to IDS. We expect all students to maintain a diary and use sketchbooks for analysis and exploration of your ideas and to improve writing and drawing skills. All students will be expected to use a sketchbook and write up their diary on a weekly basis.

Mondays will be used for you to present concise weekly diary entries / written summaries of your work. These will include notes on texts read, lectures attended, exhibitions visited, films watched etc. These texts are to be short critical reflections that will be collated for your diary and IDS submissions.

Mondays will also be used to host workshops and talks. Please note that these will usually be in the evening rather than afternoon so we may accommodate our visiting lecturers and critics who give their time freely. We expect these seminars and workshops to be attended by all.
READING LIST

ANTHROPOLOGY, CULTURAL CRITICISM & SOCIAL HISTORY
Geoff Dench, Kate Gavron: The New East End: Kinship, Race and Conflict
Mark Fisher: Capitalist Realism
Mark Fisher: Ghosts of my Life: Writings on Depression, Hauntology and Lost Futures
Mark Fisher: The Weird and the Eerie
Henry George: Progress and Poverty
David Graeber: Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology
Lynsey Hanley: Estates: An Intimate History
Lynsey Hanley: Respectable: Cross the Class Divide
David Harvey: Spaces of Hope
Ben Judah: This is London: Life and Death in the World City
Paul Mason: PostCapitalism
Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor
Clare Melhuish (editor): Architecture & Anthropology, AD Vol 66, No11/12
Clare Melhuish: The Life and Times of The Brunswick, Bloomsbury
Daniel Miller (editor): Materiality
George Orwell: Down and out in Paris and London
Julian Pratt: Stewardship Economy
Jeremy Rifkin: The Third Industrial Revolution
Richard Sennett: Flesh and Stone
E. P. Thompson: The Making of the English Working Class
Young & Wilmott: Family and Kinship in East London

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY, THEORY AND CRITICISM
John Allan: Berthold Lubetkin
Peter Blundell Jones: Architecture and Ritual
Anthony Blunt: Borromini
Kerry Downes (editor): Borromini’s book
Andrea Branzi: Weak and Diffuse Modernity
Federico Bucci: Luigi Moretti
Elizabeth Grosz: Architecture from the Outside, Essays on Virtual and Real Space
Nadir Z. Lahiji (editor): Can Architecture be an Emancipatory Project, Dialogues on Architecture and the Left

Essays presented to
Robin Middleton: Fragments: Architecture and the Unfinished
Massimo Scolari: Oblique Drawing – A History of Anti-Perspective
Dorothy Stroud: George Dance
John Summerson: Georgian London
Bernard Tschumi: Architecture and Disjunction
Robert Venturi: Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture
Venturi & Scott Brown: Learning from Las Vegas
Alison & Peter Smithson: The Charged Void
Colin Ward: Housing: An Anarchist Approach
James Woudhuysen & Ian Aley: Why is Construction so Backward?
James Woudhuysen et al: Big Potatoes: The London Manifesto for Innovation
Dept for Communities and Local Government: National Planning Policy Framework
Tower Hamlets: Unitary Development Plan
ART LITERATURE FILM
Luis Bunuel
Los Olvidados (film)
Italo Calvino
Invisible Cities
Martin Celmins
Peter Green
Helen Chadwick
Of Mutability (catalogue)
 Federico Fellini
La Dolce Vita (film)
Victoria Walsh
Nigel Henderson: Parallel of Life & Art
Martin Herbert
Mark Wallinger
Ilia and Emilia Kabakov
The Palace of Projects
Anna Massey
The Independent Group: Modernism & Mass Culture in Britain, 1949-59
Gordon Matta-Clark
Fake Estates
Nanni Moretti
Caro Diario (film)
Pier Paolo Pasolini
Accatone & Mama Roma (film)
Gianfranco Rosi
Sacro GRA (documentary)
Fred Scott
On Altering Architecture
Paolo Sorrentino
The Great Beauty (film)
Vittorio di Sica
The Bicycle Thieves (film)

CITY AND URBAN
Pier Vittorio Aureli
The Possibility of an Absolute Architecture
Edmund Bacon
Design of Cities
Kevin Cahill
Who owns Britain
Rem Koolhaas
Delirious New York
Leslie Martin & Lionel March
Urban Space and Structures
Anna Minton
Big Capital: Who is London for?
Ground Control
Colin Rowe & Fred Koetter
Collage City
Manfredo Tafuri
Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development

PHILOSOPHY
Jean Baudrillard
The Consumer Society
The Ecstasy of Communication
Simulacra and Simulation
The System of Objects
Jean Francois Lyotard
The Post Modern Condition
Karl Marx
Capital, The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation, Ch 1, Vol 25

RESEARCH METHODS
James Clifford
The Predicament of Culture (chapters on ethnographic authority and ethnographic surrealism)
James Clifford et al
Writing Culture
Murray Fraser (editor)
Design Research in Architecture: An Overview
George Perec
An attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris
TERM 1 - PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE

week 1  m 2 oct  MArch presentations  
th 5  Unit introduction and Poplar walk

week 2  m 9  introduction to Projects 1, 2 & 3 tutorials
  th 12

week 3  m 16  seminar and/or lecture tutorials
  th 19

week 4  m 22  seminar and/or lecture tutorials
  th 26

week 5  m 30  seminar and/or lecture crit
  th 2 nov

week 6  m 6  seminar and/or lecture
  th 9  unit trip

week 7  m 13  unit trip to Rome – Project 4 tutorials
  th 16

week 8  m 20  seminar and/or lecture tutorials
  th 23

week 9  m 26  seminar and/or lecture
  th 29  crit

week 10  m 4 dec  introduction to Project 5 – Inventing the Brief tutorials
  th 7

week 11  m 11  seminar and/or lecture tutorials
  th 14  f 15 dec  term 1 ends

week 12  m 8 jan  term 2 begins
  th 11  seminar and/or lecture
  crit – Project 5

Christmas break

The relation between bodies, social structures, and built living and work environments and their ideal interactions is not a question that can be settled: the very acknowledgement of the multiplicity of bodies and their varying political interests and ideals implies that there are a multiplicity of idealized solutions to living arrangements, arrangements for collective coexistence, but it is no longer clear that a single set of relations, a single goal or ideal, will ever adequately serve as a neutral ground for any consensual utopic form. Utopias are precisely not about consensus but about the enactment of ideals of the privileged, ideals of the government by the few of the many, ideals not derived from consensus but designed to produce or enforce it. In short, ideals need to be produced over and over again, and their proliferation and multiplication is an ongoing process, always a measure of dissatisfaction with the past and present, always the representation of ever-receding futures. The task for architecture, as for philosophy, is not to settle on utopias, models, concrete ideals, but instead to embark on the process of endless questioning. Elizabeth Grosz, Architecture from the Outside, Essays on Virtual and Real Space, Chapter 8, Embodied Utopias: The Time of Architecture, page 149