

Architectures of Refusal Statement of Interest
6 October 2017

Eduardo, Julie, and Annette,

I am a first year M. Arch student with an academic background in mechanical engineering and professional experience in small scale design-build. I am pursuing a degree in architecture to consider and address issues more broadly than is possible in engineering or small business. Infrastructural, transit and educational structures are among the most interesting to me as they make visible social, economic, and technological undercurrents. I feel that physical structures may be either reactive or proactive in these currents and design gives us the opportunity to suggest or imbed constructive interventions in the structures we regularly use. I am interested in working on the Architectures of Refusal project to better understand the relationship between the built environment and its social consequences: the organized forces that shape transit routes or place elementary schools and the specific lives these decisions affect. In the same way, I'm looking to unpack the unorganized individual, spontaneous manipulations of structure that in turn reform broad forces. Movements mark the adoption of an idea, accumulation of momentum and at critical mass, a change in our environment. An environment may expand or limit opportunity, mobility, and the generation of ideas. Movements and structure thus have a dynamic relationship, each endlessly shaping the other. My interest in the Architectures of Refusal projects is not only to contribute to its body of knowledge but to learn to leverage this environmental-social relationship in architectural practice, gaining insight into design that disrupts subservience, encourages critical thinking, and diversifies the forces that shape the built environment.

Thank you for considering my interest in the project.

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