GSAPP
Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

2014 A6012 Global Metropolis
11:00-1:00 / Thursdays / 300 North Buell
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Metropolis is a term in transition and readily associated with cosmopolitan concepts, issues and tendencies. Not readily codified as an architectural object or as a historic idea of the singular, the great city has largely been supplanted by a global field. A city, and by extension architecture, maintains immediacy through contribution to this field. This evolution underscores the interconnectedness of our time both in terms of architecture– whether at the object, public or urban scale; and global regulation – whether financial, ecological or political. An object is measured simultaneously as a singular entity and as a part of the system. Our world is a global metropolis, much like a bazaar or a Luna Park, in which equal activity occurs between the market stalls, the rides, and the games as within them. But what are the global, urban, regional boundaries of a global metropolis and how are they measured? What are the prostheses that allow for an understanding of the space of the global metropolis? What are the representational machineries, or conventions, to provide access and measure the space of the global metropolis? Using fragments of vital metropolises-turned-megalopolises in today's global network: New York, Moscow, Beijing, Rio, Johannesburg, and Mumbai, we define and re-imagine a (future) global metropolis.

Any attempt to define value in a transitional condition necessitates measuring potentially conflictive conditions. Variables occur in terms of time, governmental structure, legal regulations, ownership, zoning, density, transportation systems, ecological and energy based infrastructures as well as opportunity and acquisition methods. Networks are defined and discussed in "Network Fever," critiqued and redefined in "Heterarchy: the Organization of Dissonance," while dualities of self-interest and competition are addressed in "Market Socialism" and in Brazilian policies to reduce poverty inequality.

The work of this seminar asks that teams become intimate with their chosen site. Knowing a place is a different kind of knowledge than simply measuring it, but measuring that place is integral to knowing it. This is an a-conceptual project that asks for the intuitive, responsive, or observed as a design operation. These fragmented conditions are organized not only to serve analysis, but also maneuver as a technique or the means to align, test and discover the opportunities of cities explored. Vyjayanthi Rao has pointed out that the self-organization systems of slums have an incredible degree of order. This informal leads to individual sovereignty but she also points out that this inherent order, an informal zoning, saves lives and promotes growth. Are there heterotopias capable of protecting and providing through the parameters of planning and development?   If so, is understanding or learning the rules enough? What are the implicit and explicit rules of the city? This seminar understands the constraints and requirements of explaining network conditions as a process of listing and formally assigning the actions (expansion, contraction, proliferation, etc.) of these networks as a first step in learning the rules of a place. However, like any information, the opportunities are in the potential to exploit the relationships.

This course is comprised of four basic components: class discussion, Studio-X speakers, team presentations, and office visits to New York practices involved in projects in China, South America, Africa and Russia. Class discussions follow Studio-X talks and Office Visits and using assigned readings as a point of reference. Students are expected to attend each class and office visit, to complete the assigned readings in time and to participate in class discussion. Students work both as individuals and groups. Each student is to produce a written essay of 1500-3000 words defining Global Metropolis. Each group investigates the city as a narrative and projective case study that defines the term Global Metropolis and incorporate each individuated definition into an overall graphic presentation of approximately 45 minutes.   The graphic conventions of this exploration are paramount. GIS mapping and other information-based visual processes are nascent in their ability to explain, define or communicate the intuitive knowledge that each city imparts. Each group is to take on this opportunity to not only communicate research but to make a contribution to the evolution and study of how design research and thinking is communicated.

Studio-X presentations
Studio-X Brazil / Sangue Bom / Rio: ReMix – Keith Kaseman
    Keith Kaseman   <kk@kbas-studio.com>
Studio-X Johannesburg / Africa-Lab / Global Research
    Mabel Wilson   <libbiw@earthlink.net>
    Mario Gooden, AIA   <mgooden@huffgooden.com>
Studio-X Beijing / Megablocks / Museum of the Future
    Jeffrey Johnson, AIA   <jeffrey@slab-a.net>
Studio-X New York / LES / The New Museum
    David Benjamin   < d@thelivingnewyork.com>

Global Office presentations *(potential)*
Adjaye Associates @ 415 Broadway (Entrance on Canal)
    Marc McQuade   <marcmcquade@gmail.com>
Apexart @ 291 Church Street
    Steven Rand   <steven.rand@apexart.org>
ARUP, NY @ 77 Water Street
    Vincent Lee   <vincent.lee@arup.com>
Buro Happold Engineers @ 100 Broadway
    Pamela.Buckeye   <Pamela.Buckeye@BuroHappold.com>
Ennead Architects @ 320 West 13th Street
    Andrew Burdick
    Amy Maresko
Foster + Partners @ 300 West 57th Street
    Courtney Hunt
KPF: Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC @ 11 West 42nd Street
    Bruce Fisher, AIA   <befisher@kpf.com>
SHoP Architects @ 11 Park Place, Penthouse
    Nikolett B. Martin   <nbm@shoparc.com>
Snøhetta, NY @ 25 Broadway
    Vanessa Kassabian   <vanessa@snohetta.com>
SOM, NY @ 14 Wall Street
    Carolina Burdo   <Carolina.Burdo@som.com>
Studio Libeskind @ 12 Rector Street 19th Floor
    Carla Swickerath   <carla.swickerath@daniel-libeskind.com>