

**CourseNo:** ARCHA4819\_001\_2013\_1  
**Meeting Location:** AVERY HALL 600  
**Meeting Time:** R 06:00P-08:00P

Instructors: Troy Conrad Therrien and Leigha Dennis

Web as Site will use contemporary web technologies to design, develop and deploy interactive online projects to engage with, comment on, and provide the infrastructure for a debate. The course is part of a 5 school assembly—including Princeton, Yale, Cooper and NYU Wagner—that will study the potential of an "innovation zone" for the Bowery as part of the New Museum's Ideas City biennale. Whereas other schools will present designs, we will take a critical distance, taking it as our role to problematize the brief. Posing questions rather than solutions, we will leverage digital networks to investigate and explicate the hidden dimensions of the site, be they cultural, social, historical, architectural or otherwise. Our work will be exhibited as part of the biennale in May.

In order to provide the conditions for a debate, the course structure will be porous to a variety of communities and collaborators. Individual tutorials to develop the necessary technical skill will be paired with workshops with Bowery-area curators, journalists, architects and designers, as well as interaction designers and the art-tech community. The museum will also provide access to influential figures of the local community. While students will design and develop their projects in teams advised by the instructors, they will have access to a wide variety of experts throughout the course in order to develop publicly accessible project that will be engaged with by local and global participants.

Digital networks have become one of the indispensable primary interfaces and organizing structures of urban life, yet their conceptualization and design is outside the scope of the urban professional. The platforms and frameworks—the "architecture" of digital networks—that structure this interface are the sole province of interaction designers and engineers. This course will provide architects, planners, urban designers, preservationists, real estate developers, curators and historians with the toolkit to engage with this digital architecture. Students will learn a leading edge web application development process, including a base knowledge of HTML, CSS and Javascript allowing them to implement more advanced technologies as dictated by their chosen project. The course will provide a platform of skills and relationships allowing students to engage with the web in a range of scales, from developing their own portfolio websites to potentially more ambitious projects and collaborations.

Students are expected during the course to:

1. complete all assigned online tutorials
2. supplement class-time learning with additional tutorials online as required by chosen project
3. design and implement a working prototype
4. expand on their existing, if any, technical skills

Evaluation Criteria:

20% attendance and participation in class and tutorials (on- and offline)

30% display engagement with an increased understanding of the technology

50% execution of design, development and content of the web product

**Thursday 6–8pm**  
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# **Web as Site**

A new Visual Studies course  
with Troy Therrien & Leigha Dennis  
( Course A4819 )

Produce interactive online projects in  
collaboration with the New Museum.

[www.arch.columbia.edu/webassite-syllabus](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/webassite-syllabus)

**Session A**  
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