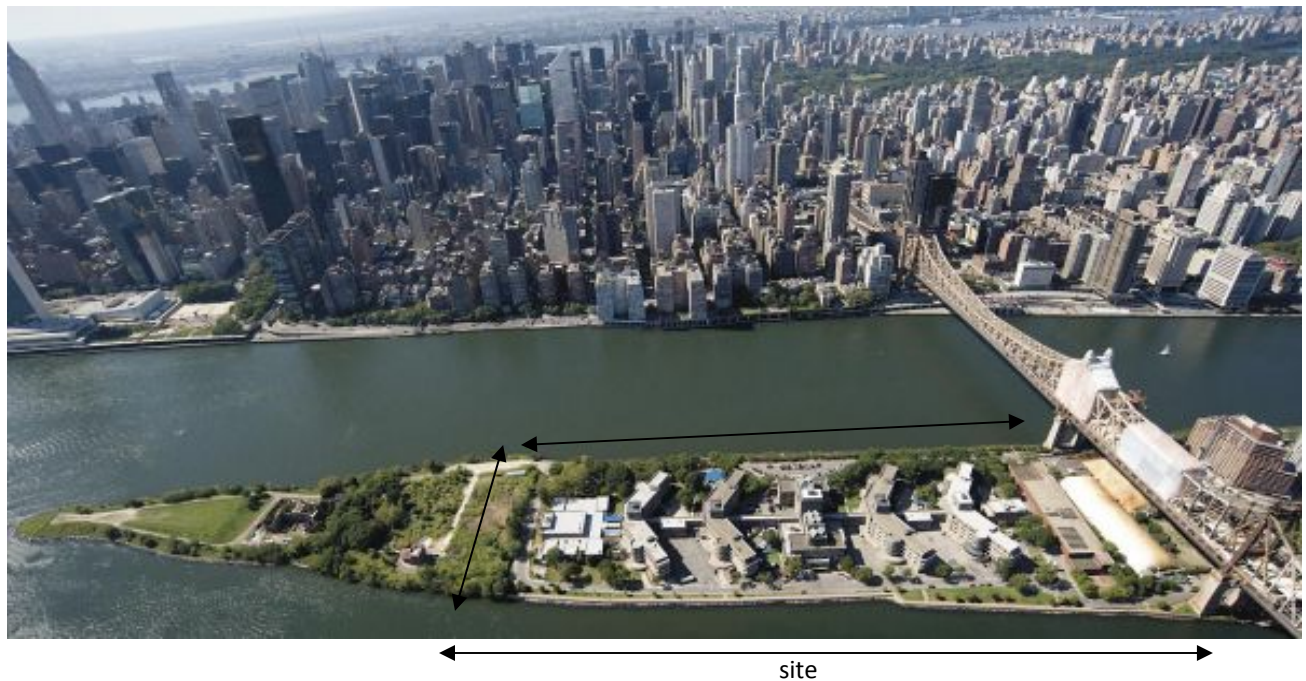


**Professor:** Frederic Levrat  
**TA:** Bo Liu  
**Theory:** Knowledge City  
**Site:** Roosevelt Island New Campus  
**Program:** Density of events - The Campus

### Knowledge City : the Campus and the City

If the main “raison d’être” for a city is its production of immaterial information, how does the physical constitution of the city encourage and enhance this non physical production? There is a paradoxical relationship between the build environment and its attempted finality. On the other hand we all accept this condition, as our current experience of the city is a condition of “interface” where the build environment allows us to understand better abstract information. Personal experiences and shared experiences in the city becomes a decoder of the mediated information and Architecture finds a new role as an Interface between the Virtual, Visual and Physical environments.



### Where does the Campus End and the City Start?

Most of the urban campuses of New York City are growing rapidly, expending, in the very competitive real estate market of Manhattan. The campus needs the dense heterogeneous city just as much as the city needs the campus. The semester program is to design a new campus, as a model of a new city. If the city and the campus are undistinguishable, then designing a new campus is designing the microcosm of a new city. The "Univers-city" is an interface between stored knowledge and active users, between the academic campus and the residential city, as well as between the immaterial and the physical. The new campus is the ultimate model of the new urban center, a high density of events, chance encounter and interactions.



### Site: Roosevelt Island New Campus

All of the major urban campuses of New York City are currently growing rapidly. In Manhattan, Columbia University is developing a new large campus on 125<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway, while the School for Visual Arts, City College and Cooper Union are also expanding significantly. NYU has already a fairly large footprint on the East and West Villages, sharing large public spaces such as Washington Square

park with the residential city. Nevertheless, the most ambitious campus development for the city is the new Cornell campus on Roosevelt island. Located at the same time at the center of the city, while disconnected on an island, the Roosevelt island site and program is highly provocative and important for the future of the city.



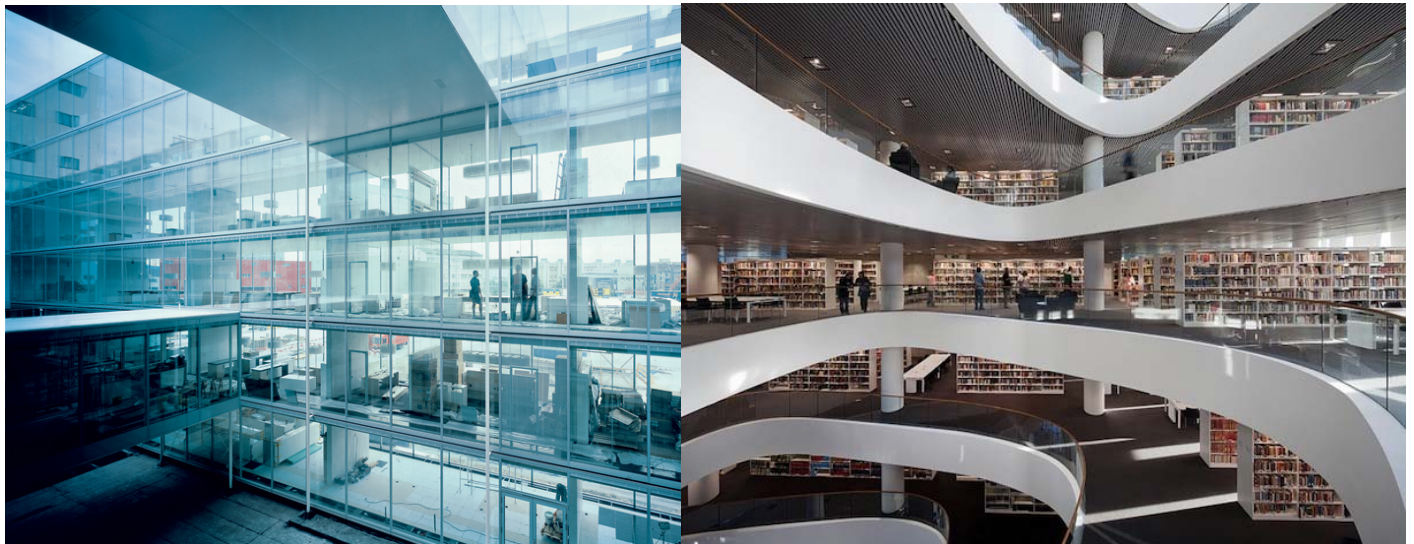
The SOM master plan is very modest and lack ambition, but I would expect Columbia University students to make a manifesto about a new campus, as if designing the center of a new city.

#### Program: A campus for the future of the city

The new campus should integrate the experiential nature of the residential dense city with maximum interaction between stored knowledge and active users. Research centers as well as a multi media library, a museum and housing should be integrated to generate the highest possibility of events and interactions in the new Univers-city. Example of new campuses, inside the city as well as outside of the city are abundant and the studio will be exploring historical examples as well as contemporary example. In recent development, the notion of



the condensed campus, generating a "knowledge synergy" is expanding from the academic circle to the large corporation. Well known architects, such as Foster, Gehry, Morphosis, etc. are hired by Apple, Google, Novartis, Giant to design their new urban campuses. Circulation, interaction, spatial distribution explore new configurations in these "knowledge aggregation" where private companies and cities invest a lot of energy and resource to generate the optimal environment for the Knowledge production of a XXI century city engine.



#### Transportation - Interaction - Synergy - Scale

The density of the city is necessary for the urban campus. The modes of transportation between the campus and the city will be enhanced to blur the distinction between the two. The possibilities of the multi layered condition offered by the existing and proposed elevated bridges, cablecar, subway, and other infrastructure network will only enhance the quality and the density of the project. The projects will

address a multiplicity of scales, from the Urban Network strategy to the specific “interface scale”. The Subway, the cable car as well as the network of streets on Manhattan and on Roosevelt Island will be part of the surrounding network.



#### Architecture as an interface.

The program for the “knowledge city center” is an interface, between stored knowledge – such as written information, digital information – and the human body. It is a mix between an interactive library, a public space, a museum and a coffee shop. Some sort of a cultural Times Square grafted on the Seattle Library and the Pompidou center in a Manhattan residential density; basically, an urban condenser.

The first part of the semester will be oriented toward the different types of urban campuses and interfaces, from public libraries to public squares. The question of the different forms of densities – digital, multimodal, pedestrian, residential and vehicular – will raise the notion of the current formula for a culture of congestion, so well developed and embraced by Manhattan.

The second part of the semester will involve designing the specific building or Network – Auditorium, classrooms, housing, médiatheque, cultural center, café, agora - as well as its relation with the outside

space surrounding it. A special emphasis on the membrane of the envelop, separating/connecting the inside and the outside of different environment and its potential “hypersurface” quality, as a vehicle to transmit and potentially generate information/ knowledge.



### Precedents:

Previous Knowledge City Studios, with different sites and programs, have been conducted at Columbia University, Osaka University and Tonji University and generated an important set of data. In addition, I had the chance to organize an international Symposium in Osaka, Japan, on the subject with the participation of Mark Wigley, Beatriz Colomina, Preston Scott Cohen, Fumihiko Maki, Xu Weigo, Takashi Yamaguchi and I. We will be able to analyze their point of view and their lectures.





Project references:

Freie University - Berlin - Candilis - Josic - Woods  
Columbia University Campus - McKim Mead White  
Novartis Campus - Basel - Lampugnani  
Apple Campus - Foster& Partners  
Le Fresnoy - Bernard Tschumi architects  
Giant Campus- Shanghai - Morphosis  
Pompidou Center – Paris France – Rogers+Piano  
Rolex Learning Center - SANAA  
Lausanne EPFL Campus - Zweifel - Strickler  
Jussieu Campus - Edouard Albert  
Graz Kunsthall – Cook + Fournier  
Seattle Library – Rem Koolhaas OMA  
Wexner Center for the Arts – Eisenman Architects  
Sendai Library – Toyo Ito  
Stadt Bibliothek - Hans Sharoun  
Aberdeen University Library - Schmidt Hammer  
Emerson College -Morphosis  
Zayed University Campus - Abu Dhabi  
NYU Campus - New York

