

## Arch 583 ST

## Architecture Without Building

### NJIT HCAD

Tuesdays 10:00 to 11:20 am, FMH 305, in person

Fridays 10:00 to 11:20 am, FMH 305, in person

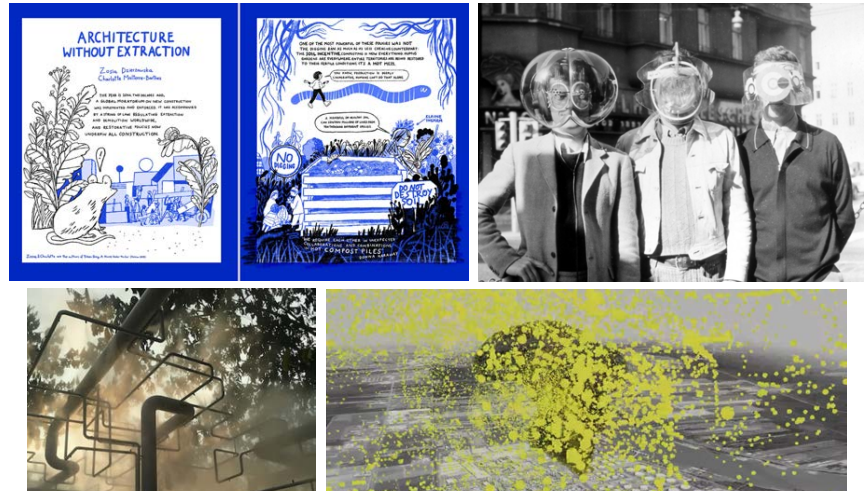
History/theory elective

Prerequisite: None

### Spring 2025

Instructor: Etien Santiago, Ph.D.: [etien.santiago@njit.edu](mailto:etien.santiago@njit.edu)

Office hours: Fridays from noon to 12:50 pm, in 533 Weston



Clockwise from upper left: “Architecture without Extraction” by Charlotte Malterre-Barthes; Haus-Rucker-Co’s “Environment Transformer: Flyhead, Viewatomizer, and Drizzler;” Jade Eco Park in Taiwan by Philippe Rahm Architectes, Mosbach Paysagistes, and Ricky Liu & Associates Architects + Planners; the forensic architecture of Eyal Weizman.

### Description

Being an architect typically means designing edifices that get built. Today, the success of an architectural firm often hinges on how many of its projects are realized. Yet, throughout the past century, some architects have increasingly challenged this status quo. This course probes the growing and heterogeneous trend of architectural work that does not aim to produce buildings.

## **Learning Outcomes**

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- Gain a general understanding of recent history involving architects who applied their disciplinary knowledge outside the realm of building
- Digest and discuss important readings that relate to this history
- Learn how to formulate a research topic in history and theory, perform the research work, and communicate their findings

## **NAAB Criteria**

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredits NJIT's architecture program. NAAB has Program and Student Criteria that must be covered by any architectural curriculum to attain their approval. This course supports the following shared values:

*Environmental Stewardship and Professional Responsibility:* Architects are responsible for the impact of their work on the natural world and on public health, safety, and welfare. As professionals and designers of the built environment, we embrace these responsibilities and act ethically to accomplish them.

*Knowledge and Innovation:* Architects create and disseminate knowledge focused on design and the built environment in response to ever-changing conditions. New knowledge advances architecture as a cultural force, drives innovation, and prompts the continuous improvement of the discipline.

*Lifelong Learning:* Architects value educational breadth and depth, including a thorough understanding of the discipline's body of knowledge, histories and theories, and architecture's role in cultural, social, environmental, economic, and built contexts. The practice of architecture demands lifelong learning, which is a shared responsibility between academic and practice settings.

**Required Materials**

Students are not required to buy any books or textbooks. Required readings will be supplied as PDFs on Canvas.

**Graded Assignment**

In addition to participating in the seminar, each student will develop a research project on a particular strand of architecture-without-building. I will explain the parameters of this research project during the second week of the semester. Over the course of the following weeks, I will help each student to formulate a compelling topic for their individual research project.

Each student will present their in-progress research on their topic after Spring Break. This presentation is meant to explain where you are in your research, what you have uncovered so far, and where you plan to go next. This progress presentation will be graded.

Students will also be graded on the final deliverable for their research project, which will be due toward the end of the semester. Each student will have the option of delivering a presentation to the rest of the class as the final deliverable OR writing a paper. Either way, the final deliverable will comprise the largest component of the final grade in the course.

**Writing Help**

Please take advantage of the Writing Center at NJIT. Its job is to help NJIT students with any kind of writing assignment as well as with assembling effective verbal and visual presentations. <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/>

**Grading Policy**

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Attentive engagement during presentations: 20%
- Attentive engagement during reading discussions: 25%
- Progress presentation: 20%
- Final research project: 35%

Because working through the class material at the same time as your peers will help you learn, late work will receive only partial credit. The final deadline to submit any late work is 11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

### *Participation*

Whenever you ask a question or make a comment during or right after the lectures and presentations, this counts towards your attentive engagement credit. Spoken contributions during reading discussions also count toward a separate attentive engagement grade. I never dock participation points for any reason, so never hesitate to speak up during class.

### *Attendance*

Per the official NJIT academic policies and procedures, “all undergraduates are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes.” Multiple absences unexcused by the Dean of Students will negatively affect your attentive engagement grade. A student is counted as absent if they arrive 10 minutes or more after the scheduled start time. The only way to obtain an excused absence is to ask the NJIT Dean of Students to verify the absence: <https://www.njit.edu/dos/student-absence-verification> . Email [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu) with any questions.

### *Final Grade*

Below is the NJIT grading scale for undergraduate students:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Superior
B+	Excellent
B	Very Good
C+	Good
C	Acceptable
D	Minimum
F	Inadequate
AUD	Audit
I	Incomplete
W	Withdrawal

At the end of the semester, I will tally up all of your points out of 100 and attribute a final grade based on the following scale:

90 to 100 points:	A
86 to 89 points:	B+
80 to 85 points:	B
76 to 79 points:	C+
70 to 75 points:	C

60 to 69 points      D  
59 or fewer points:   F

The grade of incomplete is given in rare instances to students who would normally have completed the course work but who could not do so because of special circumstances. In that case, coursework must be completed before final grades are due at the end of the next regular semester. If missing coursework is not completed then, a grade of F will be issued.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working toward. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/NJIT-University-Policy-on-Academic-Integrity.pdf>

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu) .

### **Generative AI**

**Use of artificial intelligence to help you write any text turned in as part of this course is NOT permitted.**

### **Learning and Teaching Culture Policy**

In addition to the overarching values and ethics of the university, the NJSoA is dedicated to optimism, diversity, and solidarity, professional conduct, constructive evaluation and instruction, collaborative community, health and wellbeing, time management and school-life-work balance, respectful stewardship and space management, and well-rounded enrichment. The pedagogy of architecture and design is as complex as it is rewarding, and as dynamically evolving as the people who learn and teach it. This understanding resides at the core of the NJIT Learning and Teaching Culture Policy: <https://design.njit.edu/learning-and-teaching-culture-policy>

## Tentative Schedule

Tuesday	Jan. 21	Course introduction
Friday	Jan. 24	An intro to “not-building” and semiotic squares
Tuesday	Jan. 28	Construction, Destruction, and Not-Building around World War I
Friday	Jan. 31	Frederick Kiesler
Tuesday	Feb. 4	Experimental architectures of the 60s and 70s
Friday	Feb. 7	Reading discussion: TBD
Tuesday	Feb. 11	Landscapes and Urbanisms in the 1990s to 2000s
Friday	Feb. 14	Designing Space and Microclimates (Philippe Rahm)
Tuesday	Feb. 18	Forensic Architecture (Eyal Weizman)
Friday	Feb. 21	Reading discussion: <i>Out There: Architecture Beyond Buildings</i>
Tuesday	Feb. 25	Community Engagement and Politics
Friday	Feb. 28	Reading discussion: Kiel Moe and Mark Jarzombek
Tuesday	Mar. 4	Adaptive Re-Use, De-Growth, and Re-Wilding
Friday	Mar. 7	Reading discussion: David Harvey, <i>Abstract from the Concrete</i>
Tuesday	Mar. 11	Charlotte Malterre-Barthes's Moratorium on New Construction
Friday	Mar. 14	Reading discussion: Charlotte Malterre-Barthes
Tuesday	Mar. 18	NO NJIT CLASSES — SPRING BREAK
Friday	Mar. 21	NO NJIT CLASSES — SPRING BREAK
Tuesday	Mar. 25	Student progress presentations 1
Friday	Mar. 28	Student progress presentations 2
Tuesday	Apr. 1	Student progress presentations 3
Friday	Apr. 4	Student progress presentations 4
Tuesday	Apr. 8	Student progress presentations 5
Friday	Apr. 11	Student progress presentations 6
Tuesday	Apr. 15	Student progress presentations 7
Friday	Apr. 18	NO NJIT CLASSES — GOOD FRIDAY
Tuesday	Apr. 22	Final student presentations 1
Friday	Apr. 25	Final student presentations 2
Tuesday	Apr. 29	Final student presentations 3
Friday	May 2	NO CLASS — Etien will be out of town
Tuesday	May 6	NO CLASS — NJIT THURSDAY CLASSES MEET
Wednesday	May 7	Course conclusion and questionnaire (NJIT Friday classes meet)