Globalization, unprecedented displacements – either forced or willing - a state of permanent environmental and political crises are constantly modifying the relationship between individuals, the notion of country-state and identity, the different communities and the physical space they inhabit. The non-nomadic become nomadic. Under the current fast-changing conditions, the question is how architecture and urban design may imagine new welcoming spaces for a public and generations that are still to come and for provisional communities for whom the very notion of belonging - to a country, to a geographic area, to a community, to a defined gender - is constantly under shift. The research and design - driven design studio explores the radical transformation of Miami’s cityscape within the frame of cultural districts and global art collections. It considers the many opportunities and urban transformations that may be triggered and generated by the contemporary art market for the benefit of a wider public. The cases study analyzed in the studio will be a series of different districts in Miami (Design District, Wynwood, Little Habana, Little Haiti, Allapattah). The first part of the studio will be devoted to research and the production of analytical and conceptual mapping and strategies. In the second part, students will pick a site in or related to the above-mentioned areas and engage with the critical issues mentioned below to propose a new typology of mixed-used hybrid cultural building and regeneration strategies in the district of Allapattah.
THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SKYSCRAPER

The NEW YORK CITY STUDIO is dedicated to an in-depth study through drawing research and design of the architecture of the skyscraper. New York City is the site of the invention of the skyscraper and the historical testing ground of the vertical city and high urban density in America. The NYC STUDIO is committed to the invention of a new generation of skyscrapers inspired by the architecture of the city. The studio will research through drawings the architecture of the block, the street and the skyline in connection with historical skyscrapers. Contemporary interpretations by Pritzker prize winners Aldo Rossi, Frank Gehry Herzog de Meuron, Rem Koolhaas and Sanna will be reviewed. Teams of two students will produce new skyscraper projects for the city in close relationship with the research conducted.

SPRING 2021  M/W 1:00 -5:30PM  UPPER LEVEL STUDIO  HYBRID COURSE  6 CREDITS  PROF. ROBERTO BEHAR
EVERGLADES STUDIO: A Meetinghouse and Overlook for Shark Valley Loop

Program Abstract:

Today the forum for the debate of civic issues takes place in often less than dignified places. School cafeterias, stuffy boardrooms, municipal auditoriums and non-descript office buildings are the new spaces for public debate and meeting. Most of these places are an interior world with no recognizable exterior form or iconography. Additionally, teleconferencing and the Internet have allowed for interaction in which one no longer needs to be in the same physical place as another to discuss important issues that impact citizens of the city or the places in which they live and work. The pros and cons of how well this new form of interaction services the public can be debated, but what
is certain is the loss of the architecture that once represented the higher ideals of civic discourse. Public discourse is both everywhere and nowhere. The studio will focus on the question of civic form and iconography with the design of a meeting hall in the Everglades. The program may also include the design of an observation tower or overlook as a counterpoint to the otherwise collective internal focus of the meeting hall program. The studio will look at how architecture can give form to debate and civil discourse.

The design project you are to undertake deals with the aggregation and resolution of two architectural types, the meeting hall and the observation tower/overlook. The two types suggest two different axis of expression. The meeting hall extends along the horizontal axis and the observation tower on the vertical axis. These contrasts in orientation and form, suggest different ideas about how these types are read and interpreted. The meeting hall is often of the earth, a large room that by nature focuses its activity inward toward a speaker or a place of debate and discussion. The observation tower by nature focuses outward toward the horizon and is about the extended view-vision. These two building types when occupying the same site, take on a symbiotic role by providing something neither can wholly accomplish on its own. We will explore this relationship.

Additionally, we will look at what are the appropriate set of concerns for building in an ecologically resistant and environmentally fragile landscape. In this regard we will design a building that is an exemplar of environmental responsibility, a building that rejects standardized building techniques in favor of practices that represent the environmental concerns of its stewards, the National Park Service. The studio will focus on a wholistic analysis of the Everglades cultural artifacts and natural history, to determine an appropriate iconography for a building in the Everglades to arrive at a form that best represents the civic dialogue supporting its future stewardship.
Tectonic classicism: London


We are interested in classicism and its potential as a living language of architecture. We do not engage with this way of thinking for nostalgic or sentimental reasons but as a foundational armature for a sustainable and robust architecture of the future. We cannot deny the inspiration we draw from the buildings of the past, but in them we observe the thread of a continuing tradition, which relates buildings of high and low status, differing geographical, legislative and social contexts, and varying construction techniques and typologies, across many centuries.

Projects will be set in London, specifically in historic Bloomsbury, an area noted for its urban squares, terraced housing, green spaces and historic institutions. Having studied these typologies students will design a flexible mid-scale city building for working, living and gathering, with convincing tectonic qualities, in a bucolic and historic urban setting.

Projects will explore the translation of classical ideals into realisable buildings, and the capacity for construction and architectural expression to convey meaning, connecting with individuals and society more generally. Live and pre-recorded city walks and talks will bring London and its architecture to Miami alongside hybrid design sessions.

Smith & Taylor are London-based architects and have taught a design studio at Kingston School of Art, London since 2010.

www.smithandtaylorlp.com
insta: smithandtaylor
Extension to a Georgian house in Hoxton, London, Smith & Taylor Architects

Competition for housing in Glasgow, Scotland, Smith & Taylor Architects
Student work, Kingston School of Art, 2018

Large scale drawings in progress, Kingston School of Art, 2019
Aerial photograph showing Bloomsbury, with probably project sites highlighted
PORT CITY FUTURES: BEIRUT
IN COLLABORATION WITH TU DELFT FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

From Antiquity to nowadays, port cities have emerged and developed as sites of social, economic, and cultural exchanges where people from different parts of the world mixed and influenced one another at a one of the greatest paces in the history of civilization. The Mediterranean was a cradle in that evolution, with cities like Barcelona, Marseilles, Genova, Algiers, and many others like Beirut. In this context, the exploratory studio will deal with the aftermath of the disastrous explosion that took place in the Lebanese capital during the summer of 2020. Students will investigate the history of the city, its architecture and its urban development, while speculating on potential places of design intervention regarding the port and the impacted areas. Hence, there will be no fixed program but rather an intense and creative exploration of sites and proposals. Lectures, films, and zoom conversations will accompany the hybrid design sessions during the semester. The challenging studio will be led in direct collaboration with TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment and the LDE PortCityFutures Initiative, both in the Netherlands. It will also count on the collaboration of Dean Rodolphe El-Khoury and various architects and cultural figures in the US, Europe, and Lebanon.
Top: Beirut in the 1950s. Bottom: Ras Beirut in the 2000s
The heart of TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
The City
as a work of
Art, Regulations & Economics

Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Allegory of Good and Bad Government, Fresco, 1338-40, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena

Super Studio
F. Martinez & C. Bohl + Joint Multi-Program Faculty

The Project: Redevelopment of the South Miami Gardens Public Housing Community

- Mixed Income/Inclusive Housing and Mixed Use
- TOD (Transit Oriented Development)
- Actual On-going and Multi-Disciplinary Project
- SOA Programs Participating:
  - Urban Design, MRED+U (Masters of Real Estate Development + Urbanism), Architecture (BARCH and MARCH) and Construction Management
- Developers: Private, Government and Not-For Profit
- Workshops with Invited Architects and Experts in the Field

The Idea:
The Super Studio shall dedicate itself to a project that will engage, at both the urban and architectural scale, the question of inclusive and healthy dwelling within a diverse context and an extraordinary urban condition.

The intent is to begin with a design process that will allow a richly thoughtful and multi-pronged approach, by studio teams (participants from all programs working together), towards both the existing complex and varied built environment, and its diverse history. The subsequent phases of study and design will, at its core, be one born of substantive interaction and discourse between the areas of expertise of the teams, with the ultimate objective of fostering solutions that are A) innovative in approach, B) feasible in application, and C) desirable modes of dwelling in the broadest possible terms, for the potential inhabitants, City and Region as a whole.

The goal is to explore, formulate and test designs, urban and architectural, that serve to safeguard inhabitants (individuals) in the urban built environment, along with a quality of life that best enriches and serves the greater social/public collective interest.

The Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex in St Louis, shortly after its completion in 1956. Photograph: Bettmann/Corbis.

The written word is mostly used by architectural professionals as an à posteriori tool to describe a completed project or theorize a larger body of work. Breaking with that common practice, in this studio we seek to employ creative writing as a central instrument in the design process itself in order to more precisely articulate our ideas, but also to possibly define new linguo-spatial territories.

The concrete brief will be the design of a writer’s cabin at Biscayne Bay. Following a longstanding tradition—one may think of the isolated retreats of Henry David Thoreau, Shuntaro Tanikawa, Dylan Thomas or Virginia Woods—our goal is to re-envision that particular building typology in a secluded park in the midst of Miami, inquiring what is the most suitable spatial environment to critically reflect on the world today.

Envisioned as true catalysts and “machines à réaction poétique,” all projects are thought to be developed in great detail with a special emphasis on materiality and construction, place-making and spatial atmosphere. Touching upon the roots of architecture, our contemporary primitive huts are thought to be self-reliant building units, thus, they should all be soundly adapted to their subtropical surroundings and poetically unveil the natural forces.

Studio Sauter von Moos
Mandatory Site Visits & Physical Model Building (if possible)

Lecturer Florian Sauter
University of Miami School of Architecture
Spring 2021
Hotels are engines of global transience, but they are also building blocks of the city, of urban culture, and of new economies generally. Functionally and symbolically, hotels are connected to our public and private lives; their diverse programs and amenities make them competitive incubators of lifestyle innovation, as well as environments of culture and consumerism.

Initiated in 2014, the Urban Hotel Studio is a forum for the investigation of hotel architecture and the hotel as a building type, but also for creative and critical reflection about the phenomenon of hospitality. The studio emphasizes reciprocity between research and design, between real-world limitations and critical thinking.

In Spring 2021, the Hotel Studio will explore the role of hospitality in transient live-work settings and in making community. Sponsored by Tau Capital, the Studio will investigate the development of a new hotel on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten. This hotel will be conceived as a part of a larger urban development that will include retail and co-working spaces. Conceived as both a research and design effort, the studio will comprise two phases. Phase 1 emphasizes documentation and analysis of changes that are transforming the hospitality industry, and the development in teams, and in collaboration with students in the MRED program, of design frameworks (brands) that will be the basis for further development. Students will also analyze the site on St. Maarten, and may travel there if conditions allow. In Phase 2 students create project designs demonstrating innovative architectural solutions and sustainable design strategies.