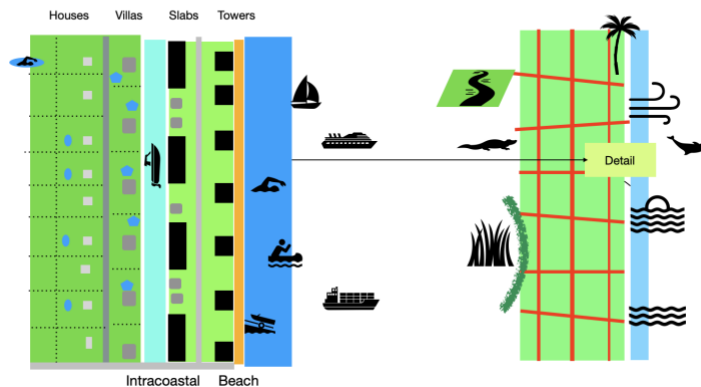


Fall 2020
ARC 584/684 (3 cr)
Section 01
Room A48 120
Thursdays 9:30 am - 12:15 pm
Lars Lerup

Spokes, Loops, and Dead-Ends: The Tale of Two Types of Urbanization.

Transect Beach

Assemblage: ocean+beach+towers+west intracoast+Intracoastal Waterway+East Intracoast+ Villas+Housie-Houses



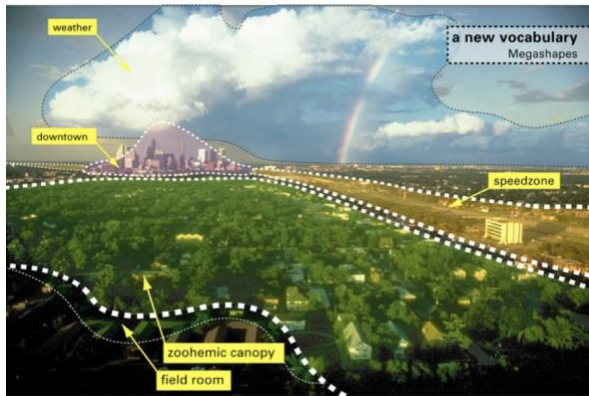
Course Description: A Linear City, anchored at the southern end by the City of Miami, stretches North under many jurisdictions: ¹ known as Miami Metropolitan Area, the Gold Coast, and alternatively as an array of place names, Homestead, Hollywood, Jupiter, to mention a few. When discussed and written about in architectural circles, the concentration is on Miami. Here we avert the glare of Miami², instead we follow Henri Lefebvre's advice to focus on *urbanization*. For us the major cities of the Linear City: Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami, each surrounded by a county, are concentrated clusters of assemblages, albeit essential, but more interesting as a collective under the rubric urbanization than as three cities surrounded by suburbs. Concentrating on a Linear City, consisting of numerous attractors, has the advantage of accepting the blurred physical boundaries, manifesting the many interactions that today makes urbanization possible and global. This scale and focus-shift allows us to see the extent and vast reach of the-culture-of-humans-living-together, the environmental impact and the

¹ We use the precise extent of the linear city loosely, since linearity dominates the entire peninsula. The linear city proper begins around Homestead south of Miami and extends to Jupiter 100 miles North. Both beginning and end fade into a linearity reduced to avenues.

² The common concentration on cities, forces us to deal with clichés such as: *in the 50's Miami was a tourist destination, in the 60's it was in decline. today it is a sophisticated city of the arts.* Such generalities hide the fact that conurbations of high density are far too varied, far too complex, far too economically diverse, to be effectively described under singular rubrics.

incalculable arsenal of technical manifestations. This, in turn, indicates that urbanization is the major motor of the current geological era— the Anthropocene.

Unlike the Florida Grid, thousand miles West, the city of Houston is built around a set of circular loops and linear spokes tying the city to a vast back-stage of industrial farming, ranches and the oil patch.



A postcard-view that captures a city flattens, frames, and cartoons a fragment of the most complex assemblage of the entire Technosphere.³ Taken from a clinical distance the picture must have its own expressive appeal—a strange combination of attention and allure that limits the scope. Not Roland Barthes’ *punctum* but something more obvious. Not necessarily a focus either but a glow, a visual heat that animates distinct aspects of the flat surface. This collusion between point of view and intensity seems necessary. Historically the postcard has had its expressive elements; church steeples and monumental buildings, but this time around it has found new domains. A series of ambits whose glow comes from collective sources—similar buildings in dense clusters; freeways and their promise of range; archipelagos of lights while landing at night. A distinct expressiveness that in turn offers a *writing surface*; naming becomes irresistible. Suddenly, upon driving, the postcard’s flatness stops abruptly to shift from expression (virtuality) to shape (reality). Both eyes rapidly parallax to silence the monocular eye—the birth of the diagnostic gaze—and with light, invade to give content, shape and distance: The Med Center, Downtown, The Zoohemic Canopy, the Freeway, the Speed Zone and its slow cousin—the Subdivision. The trees in the canopy march off into the distance to shade the well-to-do; Downtown bulges in tune with the markets for fossil fuel and takes shape despite its cragged horizon, each tower a firm or several, each window a lawyer. It becomes an object in the round; the Freeway, here just a promise, spells a network, that with streets and roads embrace the nation: Gulliver, in a straightjacket. In the adjacent Slow Zone, the same jacket spawns the real estate market with its housie-houses, lawns, fences, redlines and oscillations.

³ The Technosphere is the fifth sphere recently added to the traditional four spheres: Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Biosphere and Hydrosphere. See Jan Zalasiewicz, “Scale and diversity of the physical technosphere: a geological perspective,” *The Anthropocene Review* 4, no 1. (April 2017)

The two urban agglomerations will with an extensive text be accompanied by series of lectures and short projects. The lectures will not only deal with the Florida's Linear City, or Houston's spoke & wheel, but an assortments of subjects closely related, including questions concerning 'defensible space' rudely awoken by the current pandemic.

Lectures will be accompanied by class conversations and the presentation of student projects. Readings by DeLanda, Rem Koolhaas, Lars Lerup, etc.. Student Term Project: "The Florida Transect Under Stress." Grades will be based on class participation and final project.

Lectures:

1. The Assemblage Theory of Urbanization
2. Transportation and Urban Organization
3. The Gridiron
4. Florida's Linear City
5. Planet Ocean and the Transect
6. The Strip
7. The Obus Plan & Broadacre City
8. Network Cities vs Central Cities
9. Houston's Spoke & Wheel
10. Urbanization in Times of Hurricane, Flood and Pestilence
11. Student Presentations
12. Student Presentations