

LESS



Image: by Stanley Tigerman.

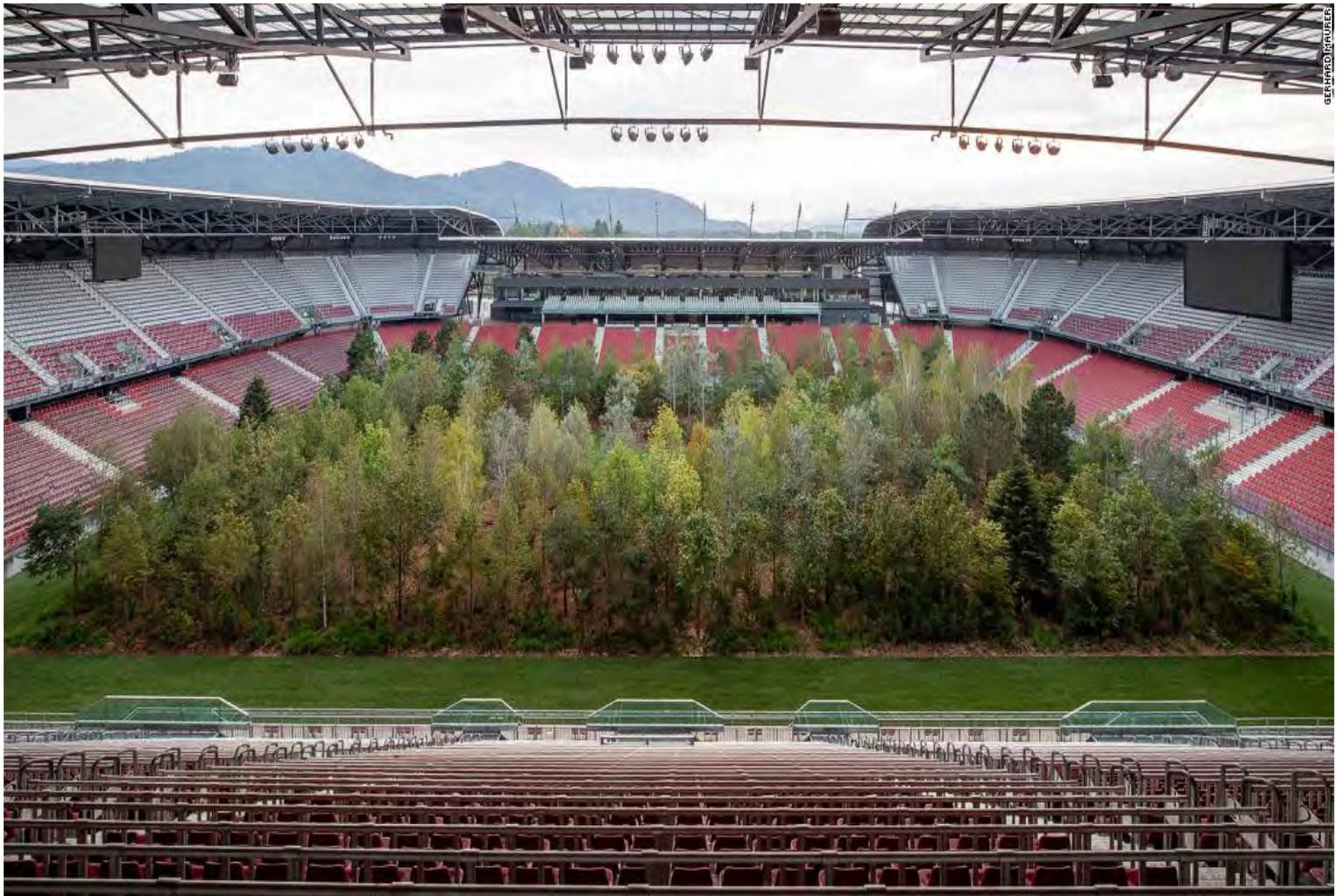
Studio 4: 2019/2020

Jeffrey Turko + Nate Kolbe

"We have entered a time of greater variability and extremes, the repercussions of which are only now beginning to be understood. Can humans flourish on a rapidly changing planet, or is the future one of grim survival, or even extinction?"

Simon L. Lewis and Mark A. Maslin

Studio 4 this year continues with its focus on the countryside. Once again asking the questions; What does the countryside truly offer? What does it need? What are its futures? In previous years Studio 4 took the view that one might think the city is where the radical affects of new technology and rapid population migrations would have a greater impact. However, it is becoming more evident that these trends are impacting the countryside most of all and we continue to hold that view. But now the countryside is also where we are seeing the greatest impacts on our environment on both the local and global scales. It is the setting for an interesting yet worrisome reality, the articulation and growth of agricultural lands leading to the expansion of the human population and with that expansion the register of the decline of species of flora & fauna to extinction levels. The countryside as we know it, is ground zero for the Anthropocene. So where does the discipline of architecture place itself in the current state of our planet? How do we as a discipline address our current realities for the future?



Rewilding

Studio 4 has previously developed work speculating on the newly developing agricultural industries in the region, such as the wine making, and local small scale social collectives, as a way of speculating on the future use and occupation of the region. This year we aim to investigate and speculate on how Rewilding can act as a strategic architectural tool for the future. Rewilding is the idea that large areas of land are left alone in order for natural processes to run, with important species of flora and fauna reinstated back into the landscape so a fuller range of natural processes can take place without the interference of humans. We look to embrace this new aesthetic and to highlight our true lack of separation from nature.

This year the Studio will continue working in the region from Lewes to the Port of Newhaven, nestled within the South Downs national park. This swathe of land is a constructed and controlled landscape consisting of varied histories and use. However it is primarily a key piece of flood zone infrastructure for the region. Due to this condition, large areas of this land are untouched. One such area is The Brooks, a 330 hectare site that has been by default left to Rewild at its own pace making it a biological site of special interest, and a protected area in the UK due to its unique species and organisms. We recognize the dynamism and potential for this site as a testing ground for the possibilities of Rewilding and how the human species coexists within it.



The Village

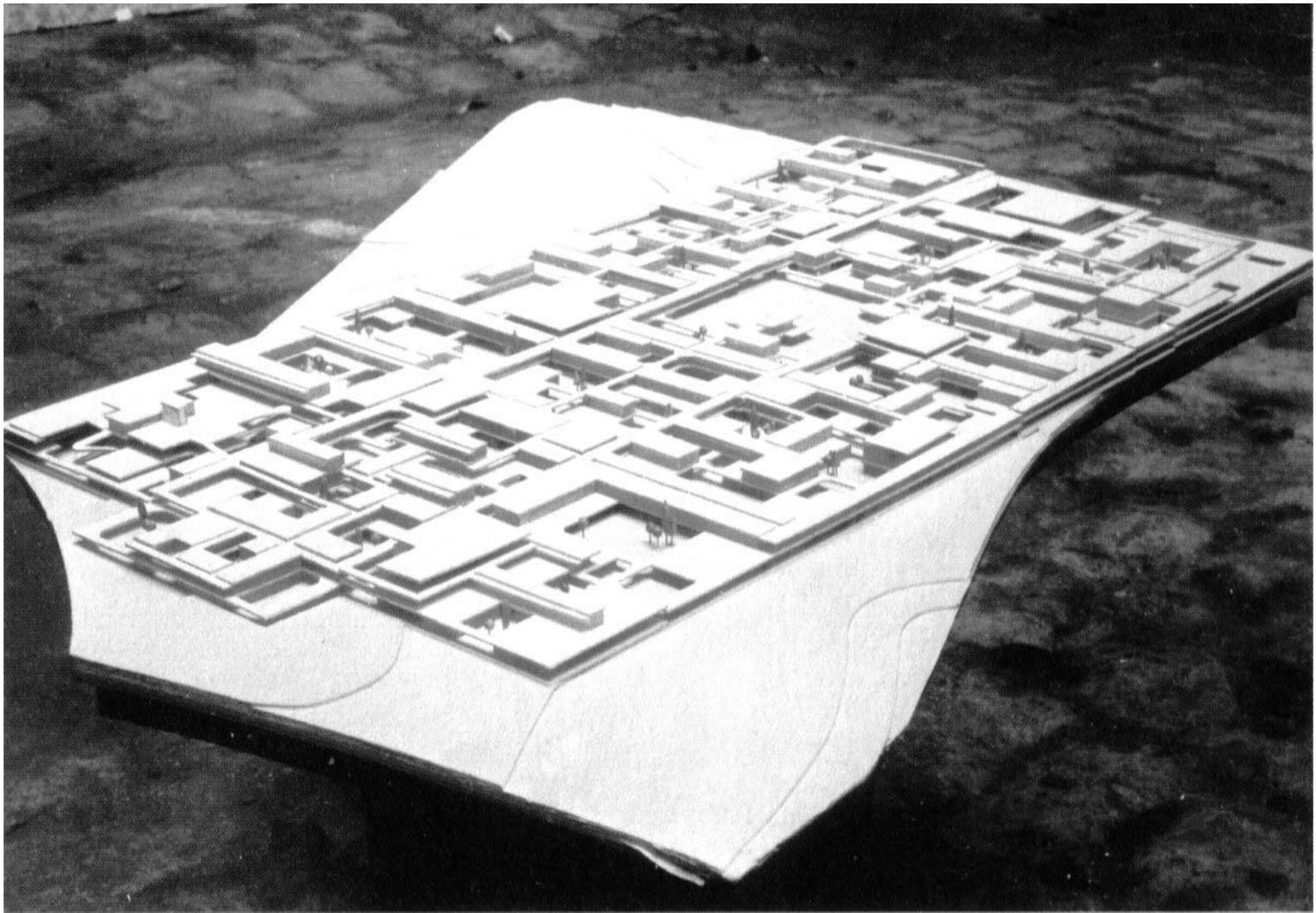
We will be working with the settlement type of the Village. Typically located in rural settings these communities usually house a population between a few hundred to a few thousand. In the past these communities practiced subsistence agriculture, only growing to feed themselves. Formally the dwellings within the settlement took on a more dense arrangement to one another for the issues of safety and social continuity. We are interested in what the current make up of a village is today but rather what could it be. Is subsistence agriculture due an update? Energy subsistence maybe?

But more specifically related to our chosen site; what is to become of those communities that are within the flood zones? Will they be consumed? Erased? Or will they be moved, transplanted? Or might it be the time to establish new villages? Human environment aside, this will also be an opportunity to speculate on how settlements situate within and sustain a broad range of micro and macro scaled ecosystems.



“Less is More!”

Typically associated with the aesthetics of the modern movement and more specifically Mies van der Rohe. We believe the statement is in need of an update. “Less is More” also needs to begin to address the question of; How do we do more with Less? We believe this question can be answered through a stronger and more up to date understanding of material performance and use of technologies. We will look to Mies for reference to his heroic tectonic skill and aesthetic as a departure point, with the aim of evolving into unforeseen architectural territories. The ambition of the open and adaptable “universal space” achieved through his technical use of the material technologies of time pointed to a powerful singular new architecture for the 20th century. But in the 21st century we are in need of architecture that offers multiplicity not singularity. In a time of consequence on the increase to our carbon footprint what materials technologies should we be considering in the formation of our built environment? As we reflect back onto the steel, glass, concrete, and marble of the 20th century, should we now be asking, what the carbon footprint of carbon fiber is?

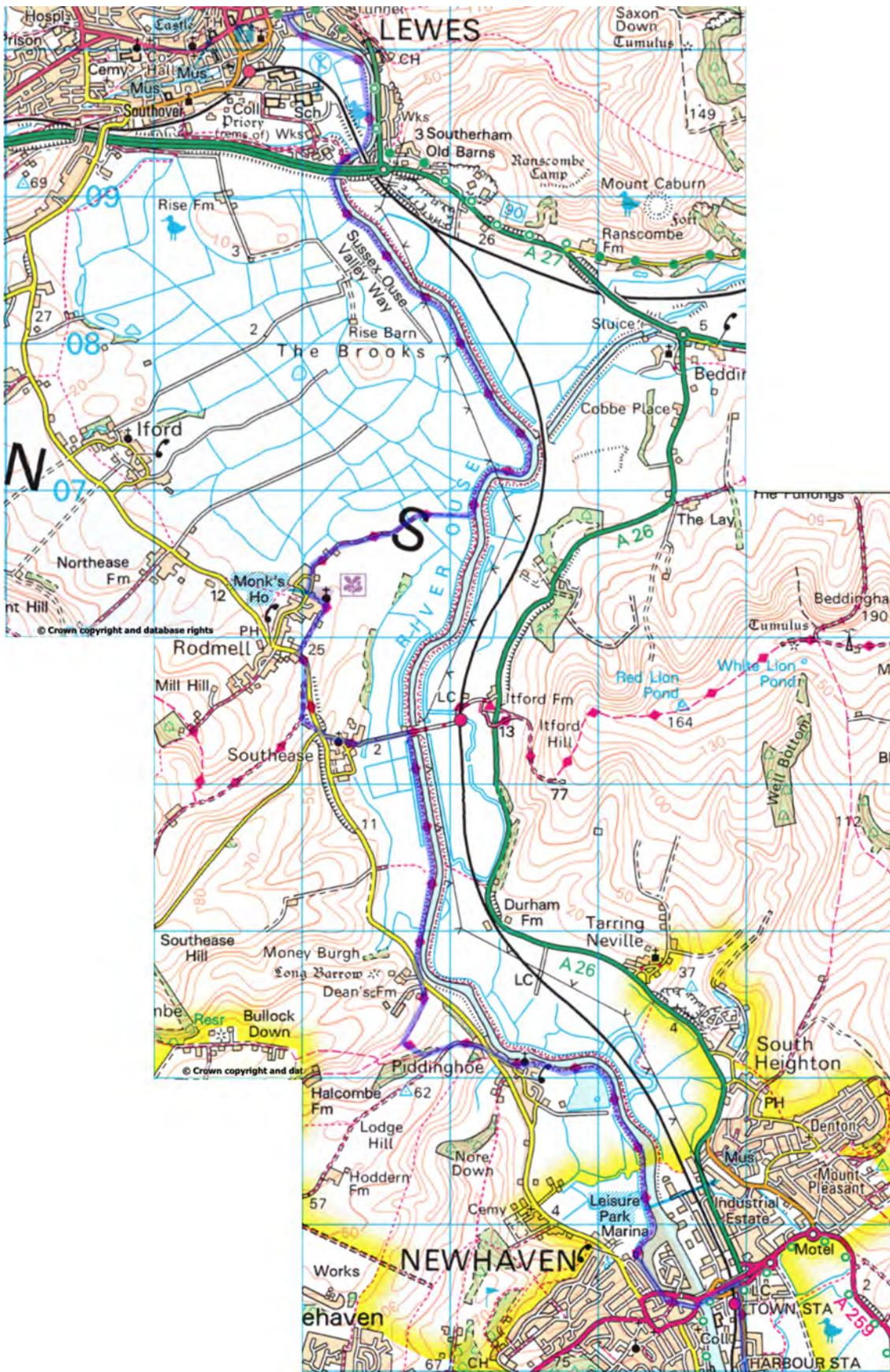


MAT Building

“Mat-building can be said to epitomize the anonymous collective; where the functions come to enrich the fabric, and the individual gains new freedoms of action through a new and shuffled order, based on interconnection, close-knit patterns of association, and possibilities for growth, diminution, and change.”

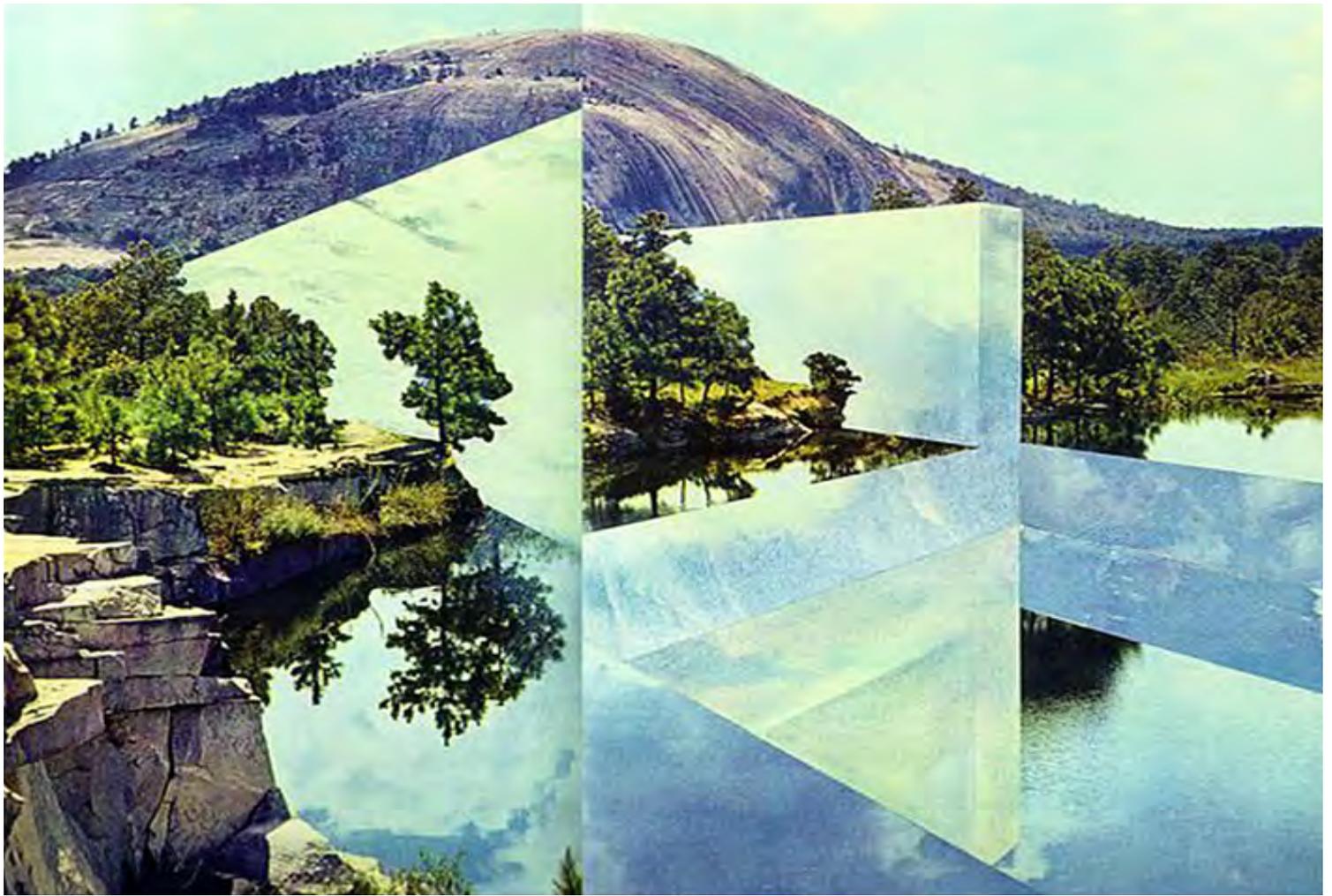
Alison Smithson

To begin we will speculate on an architecture through the exploration of the MAT building typology. Pointed out by Alison Smithson as a building typology that is not dependent on a specific architectural language, this will be the territory in which to explore and develop your architectural voice. With deep plans and articulated sections, we will embrace possibilities of dwelling in the super horizontal. Unlike the tower or the slab this typology has more potential in engaging directly with the conditions of the ground and to become a more integrated infrastructural element within the landscape.



Site:
 Lewes to the Port of Newhaven, nestled within the South Downs national park.

- Trips:**
- Knepp Estate, Sussex
 - Site Visits



Studio Timeline:

Term 1 **Event / Phase Start**

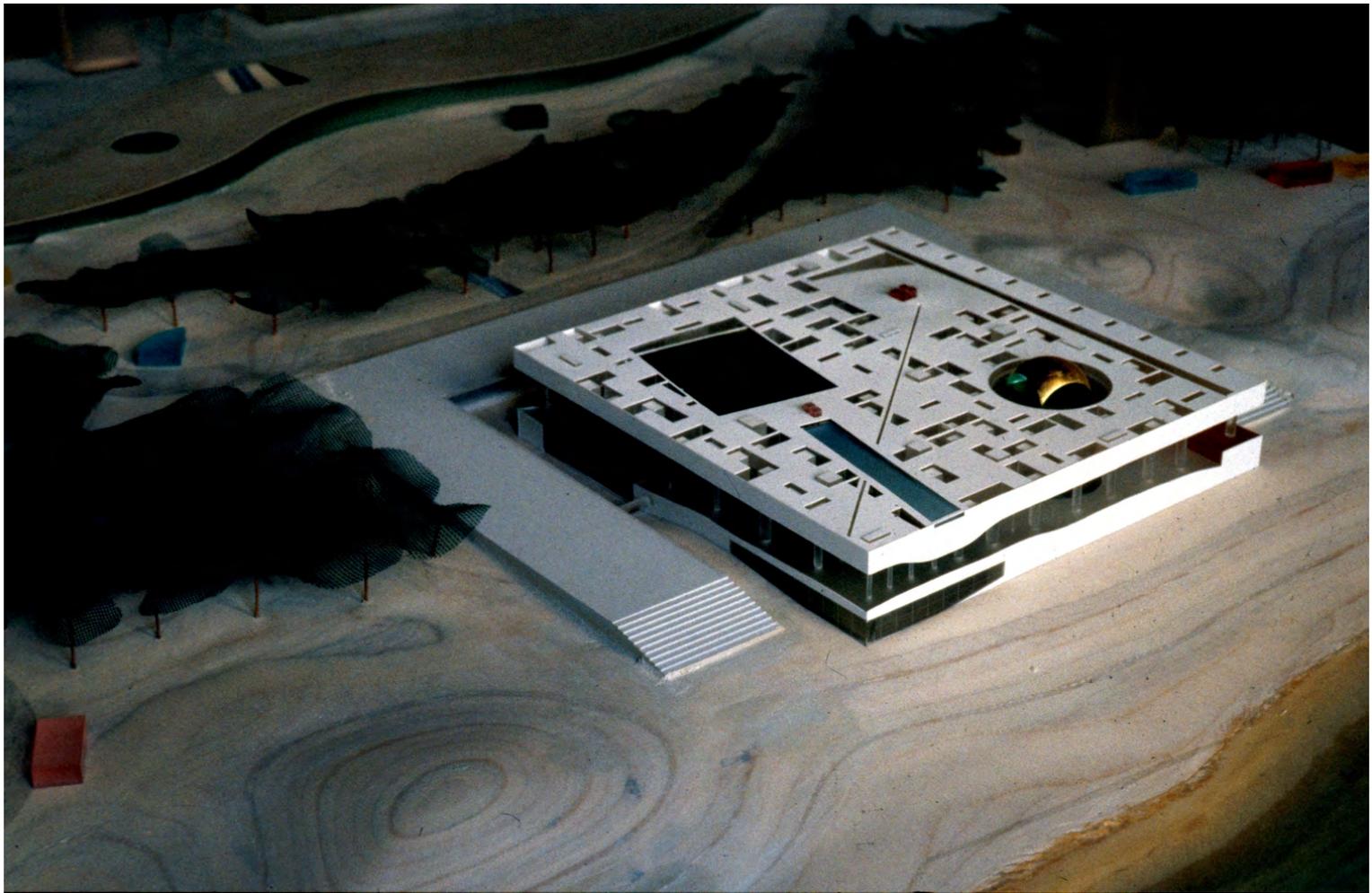
Week 1:	Course Intro
Week 2:	Studio Intro / Brief 1
Week 3:	Tutorials
Week 4:	Tutorials / Brief 2
Week 5:	Tutorials
Week 6:	Reading Week
Week 7:	Site visit / Brief 3 + 4
Week 8:	Tutorials
Week 9:	Tutorials
Week 10:	Formative M1
Week 11:	Formative M2
Week 12:	Tutorials

Term 2

Week 13:	Brief 5
Week 14:	Tutorials
Week 15:	Tutorials
Week 16:	Tutorials
Week 17:	Tutorials
Week 18:	Tutorials
Week 19:	Reading Week
Week 20:	Tutorials
Week 21:	Tutorials
Week 22:	Formative Review Tables M2
Week 23:	Formative Review Tables M1
Week 24:	Tutorials
Week 25:	Tutorials

Term 3

Week 26:	Summative Submission
Week 27:	Tutorials
Week 28:	Summative Review Tables M2
Week 29:	Grad Show Build
Week 30:	Grad Show Build
Week 32:	External Examiners



Bibliography:

- **Grounds & Envelopes, Reshaping Architecture and the Built Environment**, Hensel, Turko, Routledge Publishers (2015)
- **Being Ecological**, Timothy Morton, A Pelican Book (2018)
- **The Human Planet: How We Created the Anthropocene**, Simon L. Lewis & Mark A. Maslin, A Pelican Book (2018)
- **Space Reader: Heterogeneous Space in Architecture** (AD Reader), Hensel, Menges, Height, Wiley
- **Architecture Oriented Otherwise**, David Leatherbarrow, Princeton Architectural Press
- **Atlas of Novel Tectonics**, Reiser Umemoto, Princeton Architectural Press
- **Small, Medium, Large, Extra-Large**, Koolhaas, R, 010 publishers
- **MOVE**, Ben van Berkel, Caroline Bos
- **On growth and form** An abridged ed. Thompson, D., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **Delirious New York: a retroactive manifesto for Manhattan New** ed., Koolhaas, R, Monacelli Press
- **Le Corbusier's Venice Hospital and the Mat Building Revival**, Hashin Sarkis, Harvard Design School / Prestel
- **Performance-Oriented Architecture**, Hensel M., Wiley Publishers
- **Mies**, Mertins D. Phaidon Publishers
- **Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays**, Evans R. AA Publishing



Studio Staff Bios:

Jeffrey P. Turko is a member of the OCEAN Design and Research Association and is the founder of the design practice NEKTON Studio. With OCEAN he has worked on high profile projects such as the Landscraper Bridge and the new world trade center proposal for the Max Protetch Gallery in New York, the "World Center for Human Concerns." In his design practice NEKTON Studio he has gone onto success in international design competitions, most notably the TURF CITY masterplan competition for Reykjavik. And has represented the UK in the 2008 Beijing Biennial in Architecture.

Jeffrey is also an academic and began his teaching career at the Architectural Association (AA) School soon after completing his studies there in 1999. He then went onto become a senior lecturer at the University of East London teaching design at the post graduate diploma level for over a decade. He returned to the AA to teach again between 2008 & 2010 as Diploma unit Master of the highly successful Diploma Unit 12. Currently he is the course leader for M.Arch and Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Brighton.

<http://www.nekton.org>, <http://www.ocean-designresearch.net>

Nathaniel Kolbe is founder and director of the award-winning practice Superfusionlab. In parallel he is Senior Lecturer and Course Leader for the Post-Graduate School of Architecture at The CASS. He was a Unit Master at the Architectural Association (AA) in London for 7 years and runs a Diploma Unit at London Metropolitan University in the Post-Graduate School, The CASS, since 2008, in addition he was a Lecturer at the University of Brighton in the Masters Programme 2012-13. Following his graduation from the University of Colorado with a Bachelors of Environmental Design and an M.Arch in Architecture and Urbanism at the AA, he worked in London before establishing Superfusionlab.

He has worked on a series of projects that include the 600m tall TV and Sightseeing Tower in Guangzhou, China, the Louis Vuitton pavilion in Tokyo, various residences in London including one-off furniture and the masterplan of Canning Town. His clients have included American Express, Royal Kew Gardens, Gaité Lyrique and Unite Student Housing.

Since 2001 he has been a guest Lecturer in the Landscape and Urbanism course at the AA, the University of Cambridge, University of Belgrade, Royal College of Art, the University of East London, Nottingham University, University of Canterbury, Munster University, Westminster University, The Bartlett, University of Nebraska, University of Technology in Sydney and the University of Pennsylvania. From 2018 he is an External Examiner for the University of the Creative Arts, UCA, Canterbury.

Nate was awarded the **RIBA Silver Medal Tutor Award 2012**, **Bronze Medal Tutor Award** in 2003 and the **SOM Tutor Prize** in 2006. In 2013 he completed a solar house with his students for the Solar Decathlon 2013 in Datong, China constructed in foam. He was the High-Rise Expert, due to his experience with super-high-rise towers, for the architecture competition for a pair of 100m tall towers in Shenzhen, China in November 2012.

<http://www.superfusionlab.com/>