



**BUILDING AGENCY** ARCH330 /630 /4408/6408 **FRIDAY 12:25-2:20P OL/IP** PROF. LILY CHI  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE SP21

Global crises in resource depletion, environmental degradation, structural inequity and their lethal social and humanitarian consequences have reopened questions concerning architecture's intertwinement with broader systems and frameworks. If architectural work can be prefigured institutionally, economically, and politically, what are the possibilities for pursuing critical, resistant or even activist trajectories in contemporary practice?

*Building Agency* explores this question by focusing on critical and creative efforts to re-imagine the agency of the architectural artefact. The class will take up selected texts and projects spanning the post-World War II period to contemporary times. These reflections and pursuits of an expanded spatial or material agency offer opportunity also to unpack the common assumptions about built form that they critique--and the frameworks, processes, and interests that sustain such assumptions. Discussion will focus on what these works and ideas offer for an engaged practice, and the limiting conditions and contexts of such practice.

Course requirements include weekly readings, active participation class debates, 1-2 presentations or discussion organizations, and a term project.