Research practices are contingent on the nature and status of an “archive”—that is, in the broader sense, a collection of textual and audio-visual documents and artifacts of the past. The seminar investigates various approaches to interrogating as well as building an “archive,” which informs the production of discourses, the writing of histories, and the exhibiting of stories. On the one hand, we will question the authority of an “archive” by examining and discussing a series of architectural and theoretical texts. On the other hand, we will examine the building of the “archive” by interviewing and challenging several architectural historians and theorists, including Jean-Louis Cohen, Beatriz Colomina, Mary McLeod, Anthony Vidler, and many others. The resulting interviews will be posted on an online platform Tell Me About Your Archive and will be exhibited at Cornell’s Architecture Department. Through the question of the “archive,” we will scrutinize how certain architectural histories and theories are constructed, preserved, interpreted or suppressed, and expand our acquaintance with research practices.

Monday 9:05 am – 11:00 am 261B E Sibley