ARCH 4300/4500: Architectural Theory/Visual Representation

Location: TBA
Day/Time: Thursdays, 2:45-5:10 PM
Instructors: Val Warke [340F E. Sibley; vkw1@cornell.edu]
with Duncan Steele [das584@cornell.edu]
Credits: 3 (may be retaken for credit)
Grading: Letter or S/U [may be repeated for credit]
Permission: Instructor, upon attendance of first class

The Cornell Journal of Architecture has always been a multi-faceted journal. It’s been an index of contemporary thought regarding the place of architecture in society. It’s stood as a provocation to both the academy and the profession. It’s presented a model of the relationship between representational strategies and architectural theses. It’s been a digest of the various works—designs, writings, and occasionally just images—produced here at Cornell, as well as those produced elsewhere that have a special resonance with our ongoing and newfound interests. And, on occasion it’s been the catalyst for events commemorating each new journal as another milepost in the school's journey.

The Fall 2021 CJoA class will be simultaneously engaged in the launching of Journal 12: After, as well as the conceptualization and preliminary production of The Cornell Journal of Architecture, Issue 13.

Since the production of architecture is consistently supported, narrated, and motivated both by writing and by representing, this course is cross-listed as both architectural theory and visual representation. In addition to a survey of important architectural journals over the past 50 years, "Architectural Publications: CJoA 12/13" will engage contemporary writing and design, allowing students to shape and guide texts submitted by writers from Cornell and further afield, as well as to consider the role of the visual—the image, the drawing, the para-text, and so on—in the production and reading of architecture.

It has been the intention of the Journal since its inception that students should be fully involved in and responsible for all aspects of the production. You will need to develop creative strategies for the coherent unification of the collection of essays and projects. You will also hone your skills in writing, editing, composition, graphics, publishing, and production. Regular discussions with co-editors, faculty, and guests will contribute to the journal's refinement through the semester. Grades will be based on presentations and discussion (50%), as well as regular graphic, writing, and/or editing assignments throughout the semester (50%), with emphasis based on the specific enrollment option selected; that is, either theory (target enrollment of 12) or visual representation (target enrollment of 5).