



Woman's Building Los Angeles, 1973  
Woman sweeps floor in empty room, 1973. photographer unknown (Otis College of Art and Design Library)

# The Everyday City: *Tactics of Spatial Appropriation*

Cornell AAP Fall 2020  
Arch 3308/6308

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Time: tbd  
Place: Online  
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In the everyday city buildings hide in plain sight, echoing off unwritten everyday stories. It is a city of absence, of gaps, of in-between. In the everyday city, system and subversion go hand in hand. It's a city of minimally authored structures. The structures form a functionalist opera, to be spoken by everybody. And yet, not everybody gets to speak.

In this seminar we will listen. We will think about the unrecorded and the erased. We will find stories and amplify them. We will train to read a place, to understand the guiding regulations, and to identify the gap, the absence of authority. Los Angeles, as the oldest of the postmodern metropolis, and with its fraught history of colonialism and racism, and its overproduction of imagery and sunshine, will serve as our case study.

Part I of the seminar is theory and research:

- postmodern theories of the everyday (theory)
- Los Angeles histories, and their translation into the postmodern vernacular (material)
- Art, architecture and landscape practices from the 1970s (tactics I)
- emergent spatial appropriations in underserved communities (tactics II)

Part II is the production of a tactical manual for spatial appropriations, from the material level to the urban scale.

The seminar is a precursor for an option studio in Spring 2021, which will build on/translate/expand the research. Participating students will be given priority in the option studio selection.

Proficiency in writing is expected.