Re-make/Re-model: ADAPTIVE/PRODUCTIVE FACADES

FALL 2021 SEMINAR | Arch 4605/6605

FRIDAY 8:30 - 11:00am

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Buildings are dumb - they watch the climate change around them, oblivious to the forces present. These forces are dynamic: some carry gifts; others are hostile and cruel. Yet the building is in stasis.

What if the building was alive? Imagine a facade that could adapt like a chameleon's skin, or another that could heat the body like a polar bear's fur, or one that could keep you cool like an armadillo's shell?

The aim of the elective is to develop a facade that lives and breathes; one that is intelligent enough to adapt, not only to day/night or summer/winter, but to the changing climate of the anthropocene; one that can capture all the energy that falls on it, in order to power itself and feed its inhabitants.

This new architecture of the anthropocene is nothing like that which has gone before. The previous architecture was a product of oil, and used oil. It also sat in an unvarying and stable climate: The new architecture will be born and not made: it will be productive, adaptive and intelligent. Indeed it will be a cyborg of the biological, the informational, the electronic and the mechanical. This architecture needs imagineers: designers who can work at the scale of nuts and bolts, who are interested in making things move and grow; designers who care not only about people's impact on the planet, but also the planet's impact on people.

This new facade might be a shield, it will also be a billboard, a power station, or a farm, but it will never be stationary. If it moves - build it!