



VISUALIZING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AS DESIGN TOOL

Cornell Department of Architecture
SPRING 2021 SEMINAR | ARCH 4509/6509 (IP/OL)
THURSDAY 3:45 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.
INSTRUCTOR: SANA FRINI

Climate resilience can be generally defined as the capacity for a system to absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of external pressures imposed upon it by the climate. Within the discipline of architecture, climate resilience is focused on how to solve basic vulnerabilities that users and communities might be exposed to as a result of the climate. Through this lens, design becomes an opportunity to adapt and evolve habits, customs and uses into more desirable configurations that improve sustainability and create innovative spaces that are better suited for any future challenges.

In the last couple of decades, climate resilience has become a global priority. Although it could be argued that a significant amount of the theory has yet to be translated into practice, architectural philosophies and concepts have recently been introduced to the discord resulting in a growing consciousness among architecture practitioners about the impact architectural production has both locally and globally on climate change.

This seminar invites students to debate, reflect and construct a personal discourse stemming from the topic of climate resilience. Using visual narrative techniques and critical thinking skills the students will develop a distinct position in regards to climate resilience and how it might inform to a specific architectural project.

SEMINAR CONTENT STEPS

1. THEORETICAL FRAME: Students will become familiar with both concepts of climate resilience and Visual Narratives through a series of presentations and debates.

2. EXCHANGES: Students will participate in a series of conversations with architects/artists that work closely with the theme of climate resilience as a means of generating a dialogue and help build a individualized critical position.

3. STUDY CASE: Students will choose a project from a list of study cases that are connected and dealing with climate resilience topic.

4. STORYTELLING: Students will be invited to choose between handcrafted, physical and digital tools to analyze, argue and produce an appropriate visual storytelling for the chosen study case.