The main issue with plastic waste is that it is imperishable and does not easily degrade. In a different context, however, this can be an advantage. This project proposes to take a common waste plastic (polypropylene) and re-purpose it into panels that would be assembled into an inhabitable pavilion to demonstrate the potential for it to be a durable building material.

A utopian approach to ameliorating homelessness by forming an inclusive and supportive environment of large scale and density, the project attempts to a) return the multidimensional identity other than “homeless” and b) create opportunities for personal growth. The self-sustaining village interacts with its surrounding context but creates a new pattern of living available to those in need.

The political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is leaving its citizens without food or safety. An architectural contribution can help transform this situation to one of hope. An urban agricultural system on existing buildings can create a network of trust and allow its residents to grow an alternate food source. It is an intervention that can help build autonomy through community-scale collaboration.

The word ostrananie, meaning “defamiliarization” or simply “making strange,” comes from the literary theories of Russian Formalist, Victor Shklovsky. The term, and the film-makers who mastered it, are the backbone to this installation on spatial perception. As a media study, it attempts to not only deform recognized visuals but to also estrange typical methods of film-making.

How do we build environmental stewardship in a region that was weaned on the extraction of resources? Add to the ever-shifting constellation of actors, initiatives, and voices that protect the commonwealth of Southwest Pennsylvania by attending and participating in Water Radicals. This constellation draws on the complex and imaginative dimensions of environmental reclamation.
Identity, as a social and cultural construct, has manifested into both a symptom and a generator of space. In order to dispel handicapping entities like gender, fueled by dominance, power, and a fear of otherness, an alternative architectural practice or architectural framework must embrace the variability of existence and combat the propagation of patriarchal order.

Making Mindfulness investigates the ways in which the built environment can augment our mental faculties through the development of mindful spaces: those designed to make us more aware by engendering psychological states that translate physical space into mental phenomena. By engaging psychological, spiritual, and existential themes, architecture can affect the qualities of our worldly experience beyond its own phenomenal presence.

An impending redevelopment of Munich’s Marienhof to include a major underground transit hub offers the opportunity to fundamentally reimagine how public space, cultural engagement, urban mobility can inform each other and the architectural process. Palimpsest Palimpsest attacks the latent complexity inherent to the Marienhof from multiple approaches to create a hybrid typology suitable for a multimodal site.

In what ways could the processing of material and form as data reshape processes of manufacturing architectural construction materials? Deriving design from material composition introduces non-deterministic outcomes and variable levels of control within the design space. It also finds new use for discarded timber resources. The design system proposed in this thesis explores possibilities for irregular raw materials as buildable components.

An investigation into the purpose and meaning of monumentality in the modern era and its relation to the American landscapes of the Pacific Crest Trail where architecture can have an immediate positive impact on a local and regional scale.

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Each of the installations asks a pointed, politically charged question, and provides some equally radical reactions. This exhibit is not a collection of work, but the manifesto of a new generation of architects. What do we know? Come in and find out.

Guest reviewers: Joyce Hwang (UB Buffalo) and Peter Minosh (Oberlin College)