

Unit 2

M Arch

Relational and Material Practices for Common Good

The Unit consists of two distinct parts which will bleed into and inform each other. On Mondays and Tuesdays, we will collaborate with Ana Maria Gutierrez from Organizmo in Colombia, on a project entitled 'Weaving Vessels for Liminal Dialogues'. On Wednesdays, we will share a collaborative programme with MA Regenerative Design entitled 'Compostations'. Compostations will bring together the two worlds and ecosystem of MARD and MARCH layering and composting them together in organic ways. Both project feed into and are supported by the Forest School and the Climate Forum initiatives. Compostations is an ecotone (a transition area between two biological communities, where two communities meet and integrate)

Tutors and Collaborators

M-Arch Architecture Unit Tutors are:

- Andreas Lang, Course Leader M-Arch Architecture
- Catalina Mejia Moreno, Spatial Practices Climate Lead
- Kleanthis Kyriakou, Unit 2 coordinator
- Joy Mulandi, Forest School Coordinator

Unit 2 is a Collaboration between

- Ana Guterrez, Organizmo
- Judith Van Den Boom, MA Regenerative Design (MARD) Course Leader and MARD staff and students
- Spatial Practices Climate Forum
- CSM Forest School

Climate Forum is a research, curriculum and exchange platform that brings the urgent focus of the climate and ecological emergency into the core of the Spatial Practices programme at Central Saint Martins. It engages with history, theory, and practice at the intersection of ethics of care, environmental humanities, and the climate and biodiversity crisis to explore the creative potential in emergent and the emergence of socio-ecological futures.

Forest School is a public programme from Central Saint Martins that uses the forest as a prism through which to understand the causes and implications of the climate and ecology emergencies.

Week 1-3 / The voice of the territories
Week 4-5 / Liminal dialogues, exploration.
Week 6-7/ Manifestations of Shelters for new rituals

MONDAYS

Individual Sessions

Vision Quest and liminal dialogue conversations

Our Monday sessions will take place at outdoor locations. The focus is on reimagining, questioning human relationships through shelter habitats, rituals, beliefs and cosmovisions. These sessions provide the space and time to develop new ways of understanding creative processes and knowledge. To dialogue with natural materials and with the non and more than human, to create new tactile memories, and to understand the needs for new rituals and architectures of shelter. To develop new understandings of shelters of care that aim to protect all forms of life. All sessions will be guided by Ana Maria Gutierrez (in person or online) and on week 2 by Pedro Jajoy from the Inga AWAI indigenous community from Colombia.

TUESDAYS

Collective Sessions

Synopsis and Lectures and Conversations with guests

Tuesdays will be the day when we will reflect upon our Monday journeys. We will always start by sharing individual and collective experiences and thoughts, and by synthesising through making. Every week we will ask you to work on a drawing and 200 words that will add up to your individual reflective journal which will focus on 'Weaving voices / weaving knowledges: thinking through ethics of not-yet-known practices.' The morning session will also be the space to prepare for the afternoon exchange with Ana and her invited guests. Each guest will respond to the suggested journey and theme of the week. It is an opportunity to enter into dialogue with people relevant in the field and similarly interested in these enquiries.

WEDNESDAYS

Compostations

See separate sheet.

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Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively, acting ethically and in frameworks of care with peers, stakeholders (human and non-human), communities and the natural environment as appropriate. (AC Process)
- LO2 Evidence an understanding of processes of change-making, in different disciplinary and social, economic and cultural contexts. (AC Knowledge)
- LO3 Critically engage with a range of methods and theory relevant to your and others' practice demonstrating ability to question norms, practices, and opinions; to reflect on one's own values, perceptions, and actions. (AC Enquiry)
- LO4 Through engagement with your practice and that of others, develop an understanding of how to communicate with diverse audiences and communities and develop tools for working with others. (AC Communication)

Assessment Descriptor

This work should be communicated through a range of visual media and methods appropriate to the nature of your cooperative and creative practice.

- A group presentation which clearly situates the project, highlights key developments and final concepts, indicates methodologies and role of each creative practitioner as well as provide a critical review of final achievements
- A reflective journal (1000 Words, diagrams and drawings). A personal reflection on your learning journey, specifically focusing on notions of care which connect material aspects of care with wider understanding of care practices.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods devised for this unit include:

- Exploring collaborative and team working techniques
- Group tutorials to reflect on your overall progress and confirm future goals
- Peer to peer learning
- Lectures and seminars to provide historical and theoretical frameworks
- Workshops in ethics of care

Formative assessment will occur throughout the Unit at mid stage of the project. Formative assessments may take the form of a group critique, tutorial or de-brief.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of the unit.

Independent Learning: 79%

Scheduled Learning and Teaching: 21%

Weaving Vessels for Liminal Dialogues

“We acknowledge the first territory we inhabit as our body; sacred temple from which forms of interaction are gestated as new languages, seductive dances of creation and discoveries of all the cycles that surround us”

How can architecture represent our relationship with territories (forests and bodies)? How can these relationships become a material and spatial manifestation, allowing us to inhabit them?

During this seven-week journey we will collectively work towards a regenerative designed vessel that will host liminal dialogues, give voice to the unvoiced, allow us to explore rituals of belongings and create new possible worlds through radical listening and imagining. Unit 2 aims to generate opportunities for students to approach ideas of design, architecture and infrastructures through liminal dialogues with the non-human and more than human. This Unit offers an immersion in new narratives and new ways of knowing that range from unexpected dialogues to an exploration of new presences and awareness. We will engage with our own econiche – an ecological understanding of our places in the world, and through spatial experimentations, we will produce new rituals and knowledge that problematises nature-culture relations. Explorations will be informed by our hybrid identities full of tensions and contradictions, by our roots to territories and their inhabitants, and from the recognition of dynamic relations that connect us to all the manifestations of life this planet we co-inhabit.

For this Unit we consider the body as the starting point. It is the first territory we inhabit, and the one through which we gestate forms of interaction with our environment. It is the territory from where we feel, create languages and discover cycles that connect us with other living beings. Listening to our own bodies allows us, beyond understanding what happens in it and with it, to refine the ways in which we relate and interweave with other territories, and with the bodies that are part of a larger collective body: the territory we inhabit. This territory, we believe, is a vessel of knowledge that is as diverse as the bodies that inhabit it. It is a territory that demarcates the path to our deepest humanity. A path which will lead us to a journey of transformation and allow us to understand our purpose within the entangled webs of life that co-inhabit our planet.

Syntony between thinking, word and gesture is manifested in weaving and through weaving. Weaving is the network that we co-create through relations and conversations that connect us, as well as the spatial and material manifestation of the languages and narratives that originate from the encounters of bodies and territories. Weaving we see as process and outcome. This will lead to our ethics of co-creation.

Week 1-3:

The voice of the territories

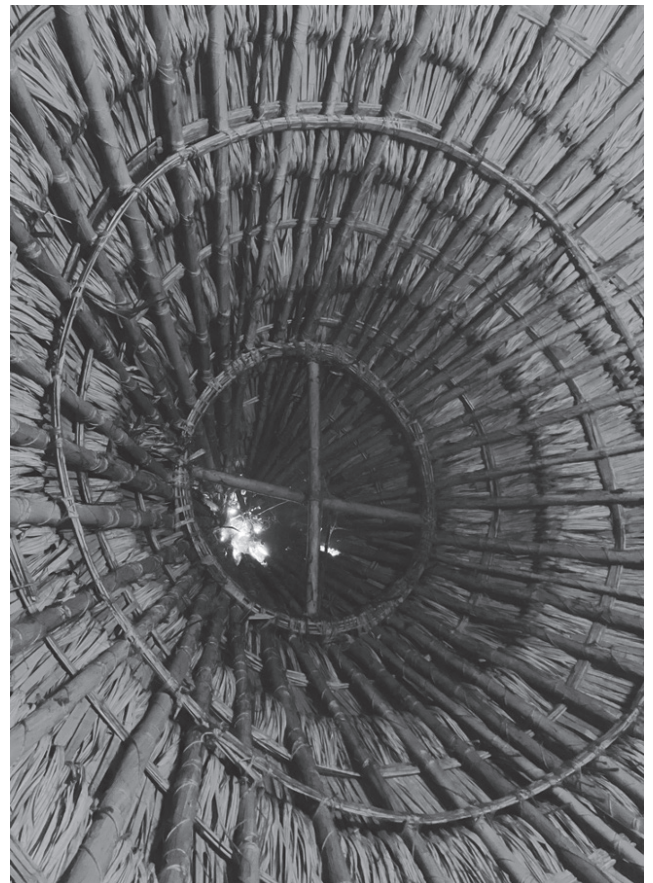
Week 4-5:

Liminal dialogues, exploration.

Week 6-7:

Manifestation of Shelters for new rituals.

Weaving Vessels for Liminal Dialogues will be led by Ana Maria Gutierrez from Organizmo.



Ana Maria Gutierrez founder of Organizmo, is a creator of possible worlds, sustains and maintains fires, protects sacred words and intercultural dialogues. Ana is an architect of new forms of creation and pedagogies. Her work is characterised by close listening of liminal voices, celebrating sensibilities of community work and social and environmental fabrics. Ana has been recognised as a leader in environmental processes by the British Council since 2014 and as creator of empowering and innovative practices by Ashoka on a world-wide level.

Organizmo is a Regenerative Training and Intercultural Knowledge Exchange Center focused on community empowerment through local knowledge and resources. It develops educational models around green building techniques and alternative technologies. It creates participatory dynamics and cyclic behaviours coherent with the environment and it creates concrete actions towards the development of sustainable communities. Organizmo sits in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems of the world surrounded by communities strongly rooted to their original territories. This has allowed Organizmo to understand other forms of relating, feeling, creating, and ways of co-inhabiting with the non and more than human. From the intersection of multiple disciplines and ways of knowing, Organizmo interrogates the fundamentals of the relationships that we weave with our bodies, souls, and territories.

Forest School: Compostations



Compostations is a student-led collaborative space for adding layers, fermentation and dialogue, experimental modes of practice and provocation; guests are also invited to participate in the dialogue. Students will be in cross-course groups and collaborate each week through responding to learnings from their respective unit sessions. M ARCH will collaborate with Ana Maria Gutierrez from Organismo in Colombia, and MA Regenerative Design will be learning from permaculture principles and collaborating with Bas Kools, developing collective propositions for living systems communities that establish and steward new multispecies relations.

Compostation sessions will lead to a series of provocations through either/or audio, podcast, film, interviews, actions, that are generated through deep collaboration in the cross-course groups.

Compostations is a collective process, and the provocations are raw in nature, emerging from weekly layers of knowledge, experience, and dialogue. Composting happens in the activity of doing and making together. Compostation is a place to process, unearth our vocabulary, and develop new language that invites us to reconsider what it means to live in a place. Can our assumptions decay, make space for new synergies and give soil for new understandings?

Week 1: Solidarity (1 Feb 23)

To honour the strike, we will create space for a teach-in and share knowledge with our community on the importance of striking and solidarity in dialogue with AK/OK, an art/design collective rooted in the research of queer and feminist archives.

Week 2: Compost (8 Feb 23)

We will be joined by Hari of Compost Mentis, to talk about compost in physical and metaphorical terms, helping set the tone for the collaborative working. We ask students to start mapping their collaborations and crossovers in their chosen medias.

Week 3: Call/Response (15 Feb 23)

We ask students to develop a mode of collaborative working. MARCH & MARD students take turns to share past learnings from respective units and call the groups to respond by creating experimentally through a media of choice.

Week 4: Connection (22 Feb 23)

The whole group to comes together to share working processes, ideas from the first weeks, map out the connections and decide on a theme to explore in your provocations.

Week 5: Provocations (1 Mar 23)

In groups, you will develop your emerging theme into a piece that can be engaged with in person and online in your chosen media.

Week 6: Provocations (8 Mar 23)

In groups, you will finalise your emerging theme into a piece that can be engaged with in person and online in your chosen media. This is experimental and does not need to be a pristine finished piece.

Week 7: Showcase (15 Mar 23)

A hybrid showcase with invited guests will celebrate the weeks of deep collaborative work.



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manifesto

Unit 2 invites you to:

- 1 Co-inhabit our world using all our senses.**
- 2 Unlearn our ways, to observe, listen and speak.**
- 3 Embrace words, thoughts,
present moments, different temporalities;
for their nature is changeable.**
- 4 Engage with processes of embodied practices.**
- 5 Explore weaving* and dialoguing;
these will lead to deeper understandings and
new listening technologies.**
- 6 Create new rituals.**
- 7 Embrace material and physical space that help you
return to your own skin and soul. This will provide
the ground for new understandings of shelter.**
- 8 Embrace discomfort and the unknown.**



Some thoughts to start weaving with:

- 1 Visualise how we can engage with the magnetic fields manifested in sacred geometry; a field that protects us and shares with us the intangible.
- 2 How can we build bridges to weave deep conversations about the challenges we share as humanity? How can these bridges give voice to non-western epistemologies, and create a living archive for voices to be heard in all possible contexts? How can these bridges prompt conversations between communities that share common wounds and wealth of knowledge?
- 3 How can we understand architecture as an infrastructure of shelter and care?
- 4 How is co-creation a form of ethical intercultural dialogue based on ethics of community approach and respect for the origins of processes and materials.
- 5 Can we understand a territory as the manifestation of diverse cosmovisions and non-western epistemologies?
- 6 Can we recognize and work towards weaving regenerative architecture as a host for liminal dialogues between different disciplines, cultures and new narratives of coexistence?
- 7 Can regenerative design enact new presences and new rituals, from the rootedness and respect for a territory, its knowledge and its inhabitants, and from the recognition of the dynamic relationships that connect us with all manifestations of life on earth?

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