



Harvard Design Magazine No. 43 Shelf Life

The more stuff we accumulate, the more space we need to store it all. Vast portions of the landscape are claimed and governed by spaces of storage, their maintenance, and the goods that move through them—or remain buried within them indefinitely.

This issue of *Harvard Design Magazine* investigates and unpacks the contents, containers, and systems of storage that organize our world.

Storage is the aggregation and containment of the material and immaterial stuff of culture; but also the safeguarding—or hoarding—of energy and tools for some imagined future purpose. How does all this stuff mask or overcompensate for economic and ecological bankruptcy? Is storage about greed or need? Storage, perhaps, is everything we can live without but insist on living with.

“Shelf Life” explores what’s inside the box (shed, tank, urn, vault, crypt, crate, case, pot, bag, vat, morgue, safe, bin, archive, warehouse, cabinet, cellar, cemetery, depository, locker, freezer, landfill, library). Even as we attempt to reduce and recycle, the stuff that we dispose of also needs to be stored. Where do we put it? Our planet is now a saturated receptacle. This warehouse is full, and we’re all inside it.

Shannon Mattern
“Before BILLY: A Brief History of the Bookshelf”

Shannon Mattern is associate professor of media studies at the New School. She teaches and writes about archives, libraries, and other media spaces; media infrastructures; and spatial epistemologies. She is the author of *The New Downtown Library: Designing with Communities* (2007), *Deep Mapping the Media City* (2015), and the forthcoming *Ether/Ore: Archaeologies of Cities and Media*.

Antonio Furguele
“The Five Points of Cloud Architecture”

Antonio Furguele is associate professor of architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology. His research focuses on the histories and theories of information. His recent research investigates the systems that compose data centers, facilitate Cloud computing, and propel important changes in the Information Age.

Susan Nigra Snyder
“Learning from the Steel”

Susan Nigra Snyder, an architect, is codirector of Critical Conservation in the Masters in Design Studies program at the GSD. Her research looks at the forces of consumption on urban form.

Mark Mulligan
“Hiding in Plain View”

Mark Mulligan is associate professor in practice of architecture at the GSD. In addition to his design practice, he teaches and writes about contemporary Japanese urbanism, architecture, construction, and preservation. He is the editor of *Nurturing Dreams: Collected Essays on Architecture and the City* by Fumihiko Maki (2008) and coauthor with Yukio Lippit of *The Thinking Hand: Tools and Traditions of the Japanese Carpenter* (2013).

Rania Ghosn
“Trash at the Center of the Theater of the World”

Rania Ghosn, together with El Hadi Jazairy, is one-half of DESIGN EARTH. The practice engages the geographies of technological systems to address aesthetic and political concerns for architecture and urbanism. They are authors of *Geographies of Trash* (2015) and *Two Cosmograms* (2016).

Andrew Holder
“Notes on More”

Andrew Holder is coprincipal of the LADG (Los Angeles Design Group) and assistant professor of architecture at the GSD.