



*“The natural sciences are concerned with how things are . . .
Design, on the other hand, is concerned with how things ought to be.”*
—Herbert Simon, *The Sciences of the Artificial*, 1969

A thesis is a thematic proposition offered for discussion and debate, typically developed through a piece of original research specific to an academic discipline at the culmination of a program of study. Theses are produced in various methods and media appropriate to the disciplinary commitments of academic fields across campus. Design theses are pursued through the methods and media specific to the design disciplines, through design research. Design research most often refers to the process and products of knowledge produced about and through design, as distinct from knowledge produced by research methods associated with the humanities or the sciences. It can be characterized by its means and methods, as well as by its sites and subjects for work, as well as the dissemination and reception of its propositions.

Design research is propositional and projective rather than simply empirical or descriptive, and it is predicated on intervention in the world rather than simply describing the world as found. Design research is characterized by its capacity to propose alternative and better futures while simultaneously producing disciplinary knowledge in design. Thesis projects pursued through design research exhibit a dual valance, standing as a form of disciplinary knowledge and as propositions for intervention in the world. Candidates in the Master in Landscape Architecture Program elect to pursue independent design theses at the culmination of their graduate work. The projects presented here represent original thematic propositions put forward through design research to stimulate discussion and debate. In this sense, they are as much about design discourse and disciplinary formation as they are propositions for how things ought to be.

Harvard Graduate School of Design
GSD 9342 MLA Design Thesis
Spring 2018

FINAL REVIEWS Thursday 10 May

- 09:45 [Stubbins] Introductions
- 10:00 [109] **Annie Lang**, *"Knowledge Grounds"*
(advised by Robert Pietrusko)
- 11:00 [111] **Greta Ruedisueli**, *"L'Enfant's Latency"*
(advised by Jill Desimini)
- 12:00 [522] **Ernest Haines**, *"Turnpike Metabolism"*
(advised by Robert Pietrusko)

Bradley Cantrell, Virginia
Julia Czerniak, Syracuse
Mikyong Kim, Harvard
Christopher Marcinkoski, Pennsylvania
Jason Young, Tennessee
(hosted by Robert Pietrusko)

- 14:00 [109] **Alison Malouf**, *"Ghostworlds"*
(advised by Silvia Benedito)
- 15:00 [the Pit] **Shimin Cao**, *"Islandscraping"*
(advised by Francesca Benedetto)
- 16:00 [109] **Sonny Ming Qi Xu**, *"Borderhood"*
(advised by Sergio Lopez-Pineiro)
- 17:00 [123] **Min Yeo**, *"Wild"*
(advised by Craig Douglas)

Neeraj Bhatia, California College of the Arts
Bradley Cantrell, Virginia
Julia Czerniak, Syracuse
Chris Reed, Harvard
Ashley Schafer, Ohio State
(hosted by Craig Douglas)

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FINAL REVIEWS Thursday 10 May

- 08:45 [Stubbins] Introductions
- 09:00 [122] **Ahran Won**, "*Seosengwon*"
(advised by Niall Kirkwood)
- 10:00 [121] **Emily Drury**, "*How to do Things with Plants*"
(advised by Silvia Benedito)
- 11:00 [122] **Carlos Espinoza**, "*Latent Margins*"
(advised by Belinda Tato)
- 12:00 [121] **Rhea Shah**, "*Decolonizing the Forest*"
(advised by Dilip daCunha)

Neeraj Bhatia, California College of the Arts
Danielle Choi, Harvard
Alissa North, Toronto
Kees Lokman, British Columbia
Ashley Schafer, Ohio State
(hosted by Silvia Benedito)

- 14:00 [121] **Kelly Clifford**, "*Waste/Wealth Accumulations*"
(advised by Rosalea Monacella)
- 15:00 [122] **Tami Banh**, "*Water Assemblage*"
(advised by Robert Pietrusko)
- 16:00 [121] **William Baumgardner**, "*Tirana Freescape*"
(advised by Anita Berrizbeitia)

Toni Griffin, Harvard
Kees Lokman, British Columbia
Christopher Marcinkoski, Pennsylvania
Alissa North, Toronto
Jason Young, Tennessee
(hosted by Rosalea Monacella)

Francesca Benedetto is design critic in landscape architecture at Harvard GSD.

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