FUTURE CITIES > Spring 2004
Off-Grid Environments: Birds, Bees and Biospheres

Arch 552 - Future Cities > Spring 2004
School of Architecture, Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Jason Johnson, Assistant Professor (Office: CAM 125)
E-mail: jasonjohnson@virginia.edu
Tuesday 2:00 – 4:30 pm (SOA - Ex. B + Comp Lab 105 + Woodshop + CNC/CAD-CAM Lab)

Prerequisites
Admission is by Instructor permission only. Preference is given to Graduate students and upper-level Undergraduates within the School of Architecture. Participants must have previously completed at least one course covering digital imaging, animation, or three-dimensional modeling.

Course Description
2004 topic: “Off-Grid Environments > Birds, Bees and Biospheres.” The seminar will explore the dynamic systems, forces and phenomena that reside at the periphery of current design theory and practice. The existing patterns of contemporary occupation, development and communication will be subject to intense scrutiny. Through this interrogation, students will explore the boundaries between architecture, ecology, technology, infrastructure and urbanism. These topics, as presented by the Instructor and explored by student groups, will culminate in the development of research-driven installation projects. These projects will engage an array of techniques including both physical and virtual assemblies (hybrid constructions integrating the digital, the analog, the biological, the environmental, etc.).

Pedagogical Intentions
Knowledge, Skills, Connections: The primary objective of the seminar lectures, discussions and readings are to introduce students to a range of contemporary projects, theories and methodologies related to the course material. Secondly, the lab sessions will focus on the development of skills enabling students to effectively express their ideas and research using diverse media including (but not limited to) digital modeling, animation and prototyping techniques, project installation strategies, and verbal presentations.

Requirements
Attendance and Participation – 20%; Presentations – 30%; Final Presentation, Installation and Documentation – 50%. Students are expected to attend eight highly structured seminar sessions, as well as participate in project discussions, final project installations, and a final coordinated seminar exhibition.

Readings and Films
A ‘Course Reader’ will be made available through the on-line Toolkit. Authors include: R. Buckminster Fuller, Lewis Mumford, Le Corbusier, Hans Haake, Richard Feynmann, Yves Klein, Rem Koolhaas, John Rajchman, Frank Lloyd Wright, Arthur C. Clarke, Steven Johnson. Films by: Charles and Ray Eames, Ridley Scott, Stanley Kubrick, Andrei Tarkovsky and Jean-Luc Goddard.

About the Instructor
Jason Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Architecture. He holds a MArch degree from Princeton University. He teaches courses and seminars in architectural design, computing, and contemporary urban theory.

Web Address URL: http://www.faculty.virginia.edu/future-city
Number of Students Authorized to Enroll: 14
Satisfies Requirement: Elective