GLEEcerin

ALBERTO DE SALVATIERRA
UNLV School of Architecture

JOSHUA VERMILLION
UNLV School of Architecture

SAMANTHA SOLANO
UNLV School of Architecture

Chipboard, foam core, plexiglass, paper, and clay—typical model-building materials found in any architecture studio—are largely additive. One layers, intersects, glues, folds or sculpts designs through a literal bottom-up approach. Seeking to interrogate a subtractive analog means of design production in our studio pedagogy, we introduced GLEEcerin as both material and method for the creation of notational site models that recorded experiential phenomena. Delightfully translucent and surprisingly hygienic, carving soap blocks was a new experience for students, and therefore lacked preconceived notions on how the material was to be employed. This led to playful explorations of a material that is both sturdy, yet pliable to marking, puncturing, scraping, chiseling and even bending. GLEEcerin also accommodated quick and iterative 'sketch' modeling. Tools as blunt as those used for pottery could easily cut, while water alone could smooth and polish. The resulting models, 48 in all, were produced in less than a week, and served as a catalyst for critical examinations of site conditions and occupational processes. And ultimately, GLEEcerin allowed for light and transparency to join the discussion as immaterial elements that further invigorated the notational carving exercises.

Graduate Assistants: Paola Chire Ortiz, Jesse Decker, Jorge Hernandez

Students: Marychris Aliado, Diane Pacpaco Arista, Trenton Artran, Alan Avendano, Mahsa Azari, Troy Brannon, Pedro Camacho, Mey Fa Choy Anicama, Jake Hampton Cray, Oscar Delgado, Micaela Diaz, David Douglas II, Lyric Evans, Jairo Fajardo-Arroyave, Gabrielle Fernandez, Marcantonio Fodera, Sonny Geronimo Jr., Katherine Gonzales, Lorenzo Gonzales, WonWoo Jung, Isaiah Laeha, Alexander Larson, Yu Xiang Li, Yaquelin Lizaola, Trevor Lytle, Carlos Martin Agustin, Collin McGaughey, Jorge Medina, Jhanna Rae Montimor, Jesse Nava, Brianna Nava, Jazmin Navarro, Roxayna Pais-Evia, Carley Pasqualotto, Alejandro Pinon, Kyle Saca, Jonathan Saldana, Xavier Saldana, Kristi Stedman, Chozen Takei, Benjamin Tucker, Naomi Valdez, Klaire Viduya, Douglas Wong, Andrew Yahnke, Cameron Yetta, Randolf Young, Sara Younis