

✕ **Decommodifying Ownership: From Extraction to Regeneration** California College of the Arts

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James Graham, assistant professor of architectural history, co-director of History Theory Experiments (HTX)

The Decommodifying Ownership cluster is comprised of three courses:

⇓ **Property in Crisis**

MARCH 6070 / ARCHT 5070, Fall 2022

Advanced Studio, 6 units

Janette Kim, Assistant Professor

The subdivision of land as property has structured racial and social justice—and injustice—by shaping the way wealth is distributed. The Jeffersonian grid, for example, accelerated the seizure of Indigenous land and lives by colonial settlement in the American West. The single-family home has banked on discriminatory loan policies and zoning laws written in the name of protecting property values. These and many other exclusive systems still endure, especially preventing Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color from generating wealth. There is a flip side to property, however. Many of its underlying logics—the commons, liability, maintenance, belonging, and yes, even profit—can be altered towards more inclusive ends. Community Land Trusts, for example, take land off the speculative market and enable their residents to manage land collectively. In another example, Usufruct Rights reserve Native American tribes' ability to access resources on land that was ceded to the US government centuries ago. In other words, property can redistribute wealth, not just hoard it. It can proliferate resources, not just extract them. Property can play a crucial role in shaping jobs, justice and decarbonization—goals framed by climate justice and Green New Deal activists. Such approaches seek to replace an extractive economy based on the “depletion and degradation of natural resources, the exploitation of human labor,... and the accumulation of wealth by interests outside the community,” with a regenerative economy “based on reflective, responsive, reciprocal relationships of interdependence between human communities and the living world upon which we depend.” (Movement Generation, 2017)

Doing so requires an entirely different spatial concept of ownership. Traditionally, private property has defined a one-to-one correspondence between parcel boundaries and a landowner's rights and responsibilities. In fact, however, these alignments are never so clean. Stormwater might flow from my garden into your basement. A church might sell its air rights to a condo developer next door. A “town fridge” on the sidewalk might distribute prepared meals to neighbors in need. In this studio, we will crack these fissures open, to embrace unexpected alignments and misalignments across architectural elements such as hard-scape, soft-scape, foliage, foundations, walls, roofs, furniture, and fixtures. Students in this studio will be asked to redesign a single property or cluster of properties in West Oakland. Designs will focus at an architectural scale, but with an urban impact, and could involve new or retrofit construction for programs such as affordable housing, food cooperatives, a marketplace, urban farm, or arts center.

≥ **Regenerative Building Performance**

ARCH 540 / MARCH 640, Fall 2022

Building Technology Elective Seminar, 3 units

Brendon Levitt, Associate Professor

This seminar provides a generative framework for design invention rather than the problem/solution approaches common to engineering practice. This methodology recognizes energy (heat, air, light) and matter (nutrients, waste, water) as closed loop systems—continuous environmental flows in which the architecture is not the end result but part

of a larger cycle over time and space. Through this lens, the seminar reveals technological as well as economic and equity issues in relation to decommodification and shared ownership, for example, through the challenges and opportunities facing a localized and decarbonized electrical grid. Students will examine the potential of both analytical and phenomenological notions of building performance to shape a building's relationships to climate, landscape, and habitat. Quantitative analysis using parametric simulations will alternate with speculative explorations based on responses to theoretical texts, art films, and environmental artists' work. Both of these "right-brain" and "left-brain" modes will inform analysis and redesign of the students' studio projects. The term project will entail a series of weekly exercises designed to inform students' work in the studio. It is divided into six parts: site, heat, air, light, matter, and energy. Each topic will be analyzed using a quantitative method one week and a qualitative method the next. Students will incrementally redesign their studio projects in order to apply the principles and poetics they've discovered.

↑ Spaces of Extraction

ARCHT 5500 | MARCH 6500, Fall 2022
 History/Theory Elective Seminar, 3 units
 James Graham, Assistant Professor

The history/theory component of this collaboration is a seminar titled Spaces of Extraction. The first four weeks of the semester look at California (and the Bay Area specifically) through sessions on settler colonialism, electrification, resource extraction, and the financialization of property relations. Each of these topics will be explored historically with an eye toward reparative justice in the present, culminating in group presentations at the end of the first month that will feed into the ideas underpinning the design studio. The remaining weeks will build on these sessions with theoretical readings that situate architecture within economies of extraction—the buildings, infrastructures, logistical networks, and landscapes that have driven resource consumption and fossil capitalism. This also means thinking about architecture AS extraction, and there will be joint sessions with the building technology seminar to think about the architectural envelope as a particularly intense node within the network of material, energy, labor, and site. Across the semester, we will be attending to the connections between the fields of architecture, geology, political economy, law, and ecological thought. How might things like atmospheric data, zoning laws and building codes, labor struggles, resource geology, racial capitalism, and financial globalization be read through architectural sites and landscapes? And how might an abolitionist approach to these various modes of extraction help us rethink architecture? This course will include reading-focused seminars, discussions with guest speakers, and research workshops.

← Bibliography:

Property in Crisis:	Regenerative Bldg Performance:	Spaces of Extraction:
<p><i>From Banks and Tanks to Cooperation and Caring: A Strategic Framework for a Just Transition.</i> Movement Generation. 2017.</p> <p>Office of Jonathan Tate, <i>The Starter Home: Volume One (2015), The Starter Home: Volume Two (2015), and The Starter Home: Volume Three (2017)</i>. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.</p> <p>Orsi, Janelle. <i>Practicing Law in the Sharing Economy: Helping People Build Cooperatives, Social Enterprise, and Local Sustainable Economies</i>. Lanham: American Bar Association, 2014. Internet resource.</p>	<p>On Energy and Justice: :</p> <p>Barber, Daniel. <i>Le Corbusier, the Brise-Soleil, and the Socio-climatic Project of Modern Architecture, 1929–1963</i>.</p> <p>Bloch, Sam. <i>Shade</i></p> <p>Chang, Jiat-Hwee. <i>Air Conditioned Distancing</i></p> <p>Fernandez-Galiano, Luis. <i>Fire and Memory: On Architecture and Energy</i></p> <p>Fuller, Buckminster. <i>Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth</i></p> <p>Horn, Eva. <i>Air Conditioning: Taming the Climate as a Dream of Civilization</i></p> <p>Leland, John. <i>Why an East Harlem Street is 31 Degrees Hotter than Central Park West</i></p>	<p>M. Kat Anderson, <i>Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and Management of California's Natural Resources</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013).</p> <p>Hannah Appel, <i>The Licit Life of Capitalism: US Oil in Equatorial Guinea</i> (Durham: Duke University Press, 2019).</p> <p>Martin Arboleda, <i>Planetary Mine: Territories of Extraction under Late Capitalism</i> (New York: Verso, 2020).</p> <p>Brenna Bhandar, <i>Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership</i> (Durham: Duke University Press, 2018).</p> <p>Gray Brechin, <i>Imperial San Francisco</i> (Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, 2007).</p>

<p>Pistor, Katharina. "Coding Land." In <i>The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality</i>. Princeton ; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2020.</p> <p>Self, Robert O.. <i>American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland</i>. United States: Princeton University Press, 2005.</p> <p>Session, Noni, interview, "The Response: A Permanent Real Estate Cooperative to combat the affordable housing crisis," in <i>The Response</i>, March 9, 2020.</p> <p>Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahta, <i>Race for Profit</i> (University of North Carolina Press, 2020).</p> <p>Whyte, Kyle, "Food Sovereignty, Justice and Indigenous Peoples: An Essay on Settler Colonialism and Collective Continuance," <i>Oxford Handbook on Food Ethics</i>.</p>	<p>Moe, Kiel. <i>The Hierarchy of Energy in Architecture</i></p> <p>Plumer, Brad. <i>How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering</i></p> <p>On Films and Energy: <i>Fargo</i>, directed by Joel and Ethan Cohen, 1996. <i>Days of Heaven</i>, directed by Terrence Malick, 1978. <i>The Story of the Weeping Camel</i>, directed by Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Falorni, 2003. <i>The Fast Runner (Atanarjuat)</i>, directed by Zacharias Kunuk, 2001. <i>The Scent of Green Papaya</i>, directed by Anh Hung Tran, 1994. <i>The Sheltering Sky</i>, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, 1990. <i>Rivers and Tides</i>, directed by Thomas Riedelsheimer, 2001. <i>Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance</i>, directed by Godfrey Reggio, 1982.</p>	<p>Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," <i>Critical Inquiry</i>, vol. 35, no. 2 (Winter 2009): 197–222.</p> <p>Felipe Correa, <i>Beyond the City: Resource Extraction Urbanism in South America</i> (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016).</p> <p>Destin Jenkins, <i>The Bonds of Inequality: Debt and the Making of the American City</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021).</p> <p>Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, <i>California Mission Landscapes: Race, Memory, and the Politics of Heritage</i> (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016).</p> <p>Max Liboiron, <i>Pollution is Colonialism</i> (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2021).</p> <p>Reinhold Martin, "Abolish Oil," <i>Places</i> (June 2020),</p> <p>Anne Spice, "Fighting Invasive Infrastructures: Indigenous Relations against Pipelines," <i>Environment and Society</i> 9, no. 1 (2018), doi:10.3167/ares.2018.090104</p>
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🕒 Coordination and Exchange:

Property in Crisis:	Regenerative Bldg Performance:	Spaces of Extraction:
<p>⌘ <i>Joint reading sessions</i></p>	<p>⌘ <i>Joint reading sessions</i></p>	<p>⌘ Joint reading sessions on the history of electrification, resource extraction, and property. Group presentations on histories of reparative justice in California. <i>Handover to studio</i> ↗</p>
<p>Define Site, program and masing proposals. <i>Handover to B/T Seminar</i> ↗</p>	<p>Speculative analysis of building performance given historical/theoretical analysis of systems. Analyze current/future climates and microclimates (sun, wind, water, clothing). Analyze energy consumption re: 2000-Watt lifestyle, establish project energy "budget," and identify generation potentials. <i>Handoff to Studio</i> ↗</p>	
<p>⌘ <i>Joint pin-up</i></p>	<p>⌘ <i>Joint pin-up</i></p>	<p>⌘ <i>Joint pin-up</i></p>
<p>Spatialization of decommodified land and resources. Define materials and/or tectonics, and develop narratives of inhabitation. <i>Handoff to B/T Seminar</i> ↗</p>	<p>Analyze building details and envelope heat flows. Simulate thermal and/or visual performance over time. <i>Handoff to Studio</i> ↗</p>	
<p>⌘ <i>Joint final review. Handoff to H/T Seminar</i> ↗</p>	<p>⌘ <i>Joint final review. Handoff to H/T Seminar</i> ↗</p>	<p>Reflection on exchanges across all courses. Critical essays on design projects, measures of performance.→</p>