

ASSIGNMENT :

3

Oct 10-
Nov 02/04

IN

architecture [and] program

Carving into the solidity of the ground versus the figure of architecture, inhabiting the in-between, [public and private, personal and political, all competing identities] and reclaiming Architecture as program in a space of passing through.

LOST + FOUND >

Design a transient space for lost and found objects, a database and portal connected to the new L Train station at 14th Street and Avenue A.

The Lost + Found portal is a new structure between grounds: **a space for the misplaced, lost between the public and private domain, the personal and the political, social engagement and poetic disengagement, competing identities, all which constitute the complex territory of [the] city.** Shifting the view 90° from the proto-corner to emphasize the ground plane, Lost + Found, as an exploration and translation of figure and ground, not only implies the relationship of above to below, but also the **threshold, and the in-between: a transitional space of objects and people, transforming states of moving through the city.** We consider the essential notions of inhabiting the edge: threshold / transition / transformation, expanding and extending both above and below ground.

The portal includes a database terminal and reception center to receive lost articles (collected weekly from the portal), and must accommodate one attendant, known as the MTA Secretary of Misplacement. It is accessible from and connected to the subway station [under] and street level [above] in proximity, merging the two. The structure should **articulate cycles of dispossession and reclamation within a city space. The pattern is symbolic of the city's continuous losing and finding of itself.**¹

As a supporting architectural body to the transportation network[s], we consider the path of the urban transient, and the intersection of means and modes of moving through the city. With private car traffic in decline and car hailing services such as Uber, Lyft or Gett being sharply on the rise, we rely more and more on hybridizing our modes of transportation. While sharing public transportation is the aim of mass transit, sharing cars is relatively new.

Bike Sharing is the newest participant in our landscape of readily available urban transportation. Highly successful for decades throughout Europe, with the highest growth rate in Asia, it has changed the way we move in New York. Making a relatively slow mode of transportation sometimes the fastest way forward given congested streets or lack of availability of other modes of transport.²

The Lost + Found portal mediates between modes of transport, at the crux of public and private possession and dispossession, a cyclical space of transition and transience: a space of passing through, both vertically and horizontally.

Threshold Us. / ˈThreSH,(h)ôld/

Etymology
<Old English therscold, threscold; related to German dialect Drischaukel. n. a. A strip of wood, metal, or stone forming the bottom of a doorway and crossed in entering a house or room. b. A point of entry or beginning. c. The magnitude or intensity that must be exceeded for a certain reaction, phenomenon, result, or condition to occur or be manifested: 'nothing happens until the signal passes the threshold'

Transition Us./tranˈziSH(ə)n/

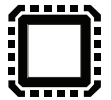
Etymology
<Mid 16th century: from French, or from Latin transitio(n-), from transire 'go across'. n. a. The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another: 'students in transition from one program to another'. b. The process by which a person permanently adopts the outward or physical characteristics of the gender with which they identify, as opposed to those of the gender they were assigned at birth. The process may or may not involve measures such as \hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery. c. Music. A momentary modulation from one key to another.

Transformation Us.

/ ˌ tran(t)sfər ˈ mǎSH(ə)n/
Etymology
<Late Middle English: from Old French, or from late Latin transformatio(n-), from the verb transformare n. a. A thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance. b. A metamorphosis during the life cycle of an animal. c. Physics The induced or spontaneous change of one element into another by a nuclear process. d. Biology The genetic alteration of a cell by introduction of extraneous DNA, especially by a plasmid.

¹ "Lost & Found City." Storefront for Art and Architecture. March 23, 2007. Accessed July 15, 2015.

² "A Short History of World Metro Systems." The Guardian. September 10, 2014. Accessed June 22, 2015.



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LOST + FOUND Our elements of engagement are: [1] roof, [2] cut, [3] threshold.

> Roof:

The roof provides shelter and program, while also marking a portal.
It captures different modes of moving and speeds within the structure. Essentially, this programmatic roof, potentially and partially lifted off the ground, or penetrating through it, adds another layer to the cityscape: it is the static component of a dynamic program. The roof therefore strongly relates and is informed by the concept of threshold.

Cut:

This assignment examines the cut, what is above and below. Thinking about the act of breaking the ground within a very hard urban surrounding is indicated and experienced through very small cuts, almost as though each hidden entrance leads one down into a separate layer of the urban fabric. Through strategic operations we connect different layers. The cut connects differing modes of transport at the intersection of vertical and horizontal motion.

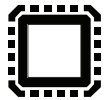
Threshold:

The threshold engages the suggested relationship between something that is “above” and something that is “below,” a passage and transitional space of transient objects and people. Site and circulation become not a fixed destination, but an experience along the way. The threshold calibrates transformation, a change from one state to another.

We reclaim highly visible infrastructural elements [relating to the subway entrance and bike storage], architecturally forgotten or neglected, actions that facilitate sustainable modes of moving through, across and under the city. **The Lost + Found portal, in conjunction with the city’s evolving transportation landscape, will become part of a language that shapes the way we move throughout the city and signifies points of entrance and departure [for people and objects]: not purely infrastructural, but highly architectural.**

Objective:

> Develop **Roof, Cut and Threshold** as a volumetric, sectional strategy and structural system carving and cutting into the ground. Transform, modify and translate the system with programmatic continuities and discrepancies. The Lost + Found shelter must provide a space to deposit and receive lost articles, as well as a database terminal. The structure and roof elements must also accommodate one attendant, the MTA Secretary of Misplacement. This added transportation portal must relate to the new subway entrance on 14th street, and should mediate the flow of people and different speeds and modes of traveling through the city. It facilitates the exchange of **speed, air, light, and misplaced possessions.**



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CONSTRAINTS

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- **SIZE**
No more than 3000 cubic feet
- **SPACE**
Structure must re-direct, collect, distribute and **multiply** natural light underground, and must manage the flow of rainwater and people. The portal seamlessly links above and below, public and private, where memory and history intersect.

3 Elements of Engagement to be designed:

[1] ROOF: creates a sense of place, signifies entry, contains program, reaches to the horizon; the roof **must** house the MTA Secretary of Misplacement staff, must contain transient goods storage and archive or database.

The roof **may also** double as any/ all of the following:
workout or urban fitness structure; bicycle parking; charging station.

Ratio:

Structure : Landscape 5:1

No more than 10% of roof area consists of light wells/ channels/ funnels.

[2] CUT: must mediate light condition from above to below ground, capturing light, and act as a portal to transport people and receive/ distribute lost items, directly connected to the new subway station.

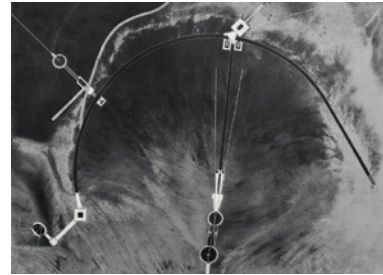
Ratio:

Area of Roof : Area of Cut 1:1

1/3 Cut uncovered by Roof (i.e.: natural light penetrates underground)

[3] THRESHOLD: in between platforms, creates a threshold space of transition and transformation for people and objects
Your structure **must** define how objects move through time in the cycle of lost, deposit, catalog, and retrieval.

- **TIME**
The Lost + Found Shelter will operate through 24 hrs / 7 days.
- **SITE**
Your Lost + Found shelter will provide a portal between modes of transport, directly connected to the new subway entrance for the L Train on 14th Street near Avenue A.*
- **MOVEMENT**
The Lost + Found structure must facilitate and transform the flow of people, transportation, lost objects, rainwater and light.



A Roden Crater, James Turrell

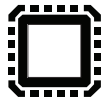


B West Coast Pavilion, Elena Manferdini
thresholds, transitions



C Ice Detail #8, Alberto Bianchi
from water to ice and in-between

*See *Navigator* "IN" for site map



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REQUIREMENTS



- Analytical drawings of the intersecting nodes [transporation, people, objects, etc.] at the site near 14th Street and Avenue A: articulate cyclical modes of moving people and objects, possession and dispossession. NTS
- Conceptual Maps: develop a spatial concept in relation to analysis mapping/ projecting; imagine vectors shifting between horizontal and vertical planes of motion, mediating grounds. NTS
- Study model[s] 1/32" = 1'0" Scale
- Model 1/16" = 1'0" Scale
- 2 Plans : movement over 24 hrs through space, defined by light condition ranging from 100% natural - 100% artificial (absence of light) 1/8" = 1'0" Scale
- 1 Section @ scale of the roof / human/ object: trace flux of people / objects over 24 hr/ weekly / monthly cycle, trace path of water and light
3-way framed views : section according to 3 modes of light...
100% natural light; in between, ~50% natural, ~50% artificial; absence of light, 100% artificial 1/8" = 1'0" Scale
- 1 Section @ urban scale: connection to larger networks in the city: geological, programmatic, atmospheric 1/32" = 1'0" Scale
- Documentation of its design evolution and movement (as video, photograph, GIF, drawings, other)
- Core I Log Book *

READINGS



- Bussard, Katherine A., and Alison Fisher. *The City Lost & Found: Capturing New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, 1960-1980*. Yale University Press, 2015.
- Evans, Robin "Figures, Doors and Passages." *Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays*. Cambridge, Ma: MIT Press, 55-92.
- Jallon, Benoit, and Umberto Napolitano. *Traces: LAN*. Actar, 2014.
- Wortham-Galvin, B. D. "The Woof and the Warp of Architecture: The Figure-Ground in Urban Design." *Footprint* Vol. 4 Issue 2. 2010, 59.

**NOTE

*See *Navigator* for Core I Log Book Layout

**See *Navigator* for additional Research/ Readings/ References