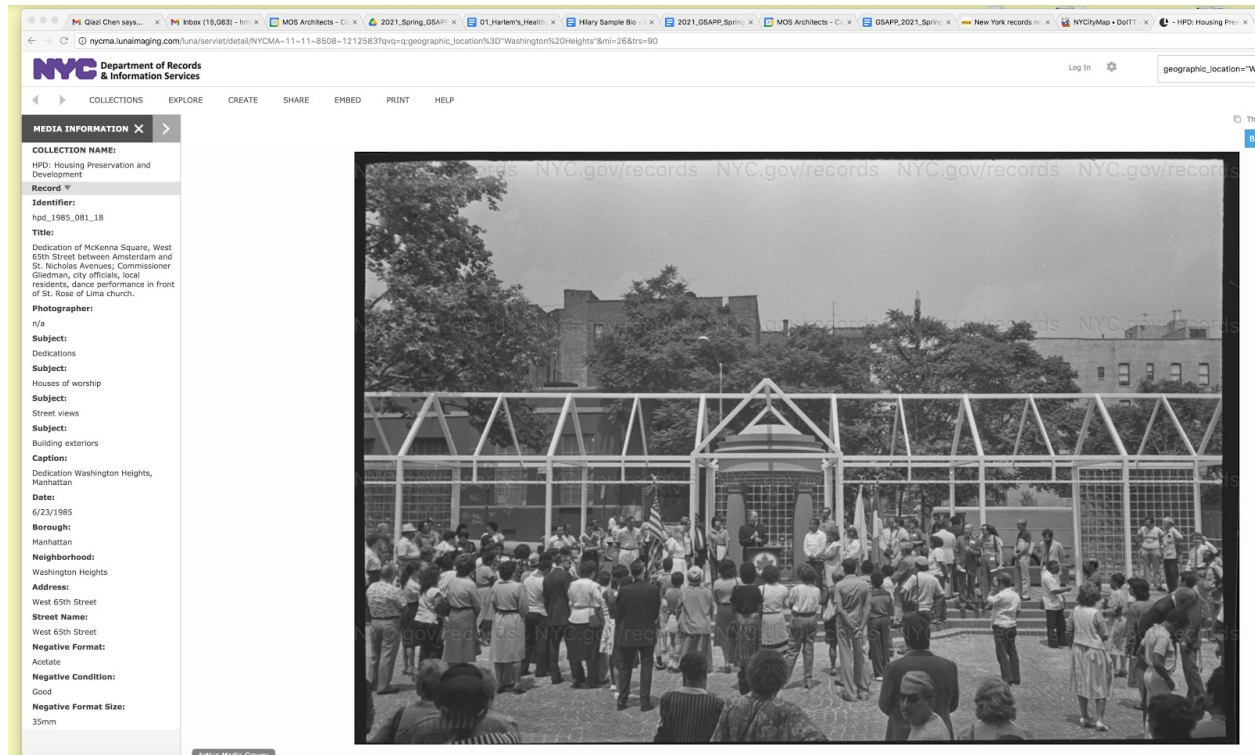


Columbia University GSAPP

ADV VI Spring 2021 Meeting Times: Mondays 2-5:30pm; Thursday 9:00 am to noon or noon-3:00pm

Professor Hilary Sample, hms2155@columbia.edu

As Little As Possible, Exercises in Open Living



McKenna Square Park

Studio Description

What role does the design of a small open space play in the contemporary city? In this advanced architectural design studio, students will reimagine McKenna Square Park located in Washington Heights. It is neither a square nor a park. Described as a triangular plaza on the NYC Parks department website, yet dedicated in 1985 under the purview of NYC HPD's Bureau of Open Space Design, the park included a pavilion, a gate, a staircase, seating, and trees functioning as an open air living room - expanding the program of living beyond public housing. With very little funding its design and construction would be maintained through contracts with the

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neighbors; its history is valuable for a multitude of reasons, not only for its final form.¹ The studio proposals will adopt the philosophical approach of doing *as little as possible*. By focusing on two scales: city to park, and architecture to industrial design through seating, and maintenance through work jackets, students will design an update to the park through minimal material means.

Starting with in person and virtual site visits, followed by presentations with industrial designers - how architecture intersects industrial design will be a key question for the studio, and workshops on drawing and making models will supplement the design process. How does durability and maintenance meet the contemporary city?

¹ This block's geometry is a result of the land division of upper Manhattan prior to the grid's construction. In addition, the site designated on the HOLC maps as yellow, not redlined, but designated as in decline. The studio will investigate and examine these two significant events upon the site and neighborhood. Frequently, the subject of redlining is discussed, yet what effects did yellow lining have upon residents and neighborhood? In a neighborhood that had been yellow lined, what burden was placed on its residents with the creation of a self-maintained park? Surrounded by major institutions such as Columbia's Medical Center and Presbyterian Hospital- with the Covid-19 pandemic the neighborhood designated yellow again, and again we can ask about its consequences. Typologies surrounding the park include; U.S. Post Office; NYCHA housing; St. Rose of Lima Church; Gregorio Luperon High School for Science and Mathematics; Word Up Community Bookshop/Librería Comunitaria; The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center will serve as community engagement resources. <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/12/08/nyregion/architect-leaves-legacy-in-20-parks.html?searchResultPosition=7>

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Max Lamb, Seating

Through critical inquiry, design research, and playful experimentation, students will gain experience in drawings: site plan, architectural plans, and details, material specifications, detail sections, and making material models, patterns for a work jacket, and drawing scale figures. An emphasis will be placed on working with recycled materials and hybrid models.

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Assignments

- | | |
|-------|--|
| No. 1 | Start: site visit Bring a tape measure
Draw existing plan and structures
One week (Dependent upon University guidelines) |
| No. 2 | Design Research neighborhood + HPD draw figures + objects
One week |
| No. 3 | Start Design
Four Weeks |
| No. 4 | Research/Draw Up Contracts/Maintenance for Users
One Week |
| No. 5 | Refinement of the Open Living Design + Drawings
Two Weeks |
| No. 6 | Make Model(s)
Two Weeks |
| No. 7 | Final Representation
One Week |
| Final | April 14, 9:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m. |

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As Little As Possible, Exercises in Open Living



MOS with Slow and Steady Wins the Race

Requirements

The studio will produce drawings, videos, and 100% recycled, repurposed material models. All work submitted as a PDF by April 16th 5:00 p.m.

Participation

Students will work in teams throughout the term. Kinne week will be determined at a later date, see ADV VI studio schedule.

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Readings

Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law*, Liveright, 2017

Andrew S. Dolkart and Gretchen S. Sorin, *Touring Historic Harlem, Four Walks in Northern Manhattan*, New York Landmarks Conservancy, 1997

Bisa Butler, *Portraits*, Yale University Press, 2020.

Hilary Sample, *Maintenance Architecture*, The MIT Press, 2016

Hilary Sample and Michael Meredith, *Scale Figures*, The MIT Press, 2019

Zoë Ryan in Max Lamb, *Exercises in Seating*, AIC/Yale University Press, 2018

Zoë Ryan, *In a Cloud, In a Wall, In a Chair*, Yale University Press, 2019

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Schedule

Students will have access to the studio on Tuesday, studio crits will be held on Zoom Mondays 2:00-5:30pm and Thursdays from 9am-noon and/or noon to 3:00 pm* Will adjust once the class list is confirmed.

January 12	Lottery
January 14	First Day of Studio, Site Visit / Walking Tour / Research
January 18 M	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday No school
January 21 Th	Studio Meeting Studio Share / Pin Up
January 25 M	Design Starts / Guest: Stephen Burks / Desk Crit
January 28	Research
February 1	Studio Presentation
February 4	Desk Crit
February 8	Mid-Reviews
February 11	Guest: HPD / Desk Crit
February 15	Desk Crit
February 18	Studio Presentation
February 22	Kinne Week
February 25	Kinne Week
March 1	Spring Break
March 4	Spring Break
March 8	Guest: Slow and Steady Wins the Race / Desk Crit
March 11	Studio Presentation
March 15	Field Trip
March 18	Studio Presentation
March 22	Guest: Dzek / Desk Crit
March 25	Desk Crit
March 29	Studio Presentation
April 1	Desk Crit
April 5	Desk Crit / Last Day of Studio
April 14	Final Review 9 a.m -11:30 a.m