A scene of energy expenditure, material assemblage, and sequenced activity, the construction site is a potent phase in the narrative of a building that depicts the alteration and establishes the connectivity of a material organization; splicing into existing infrastructure, defining internal draws, and external contributions. Left as visual reminders in the wake of economic downturns, stalled construction sites are unforgiving in their use of space and material. Frozen in process, vacant and empty to occupation, evidence of pause; the stalled construction site is an ever more present space in the current city. Simultaneously, in a time of evaluating energy production and consumption, the building stock is deeply contributing to a critical reassessment of construction practices and building valuation. As a proto-building, the landscape of construction is riddled with energy progressing toward inert and hermetically sealed buildings; the processes of expending human power, machine logics, and support structures in a measurable activity of work and the creation of a sealed artificial environment. Coupling this space in its time of pause with ‘temporary’ productive activity a stalled site can be elevated to become a spatial contribution and localized infrastructure, and the ability to extend beyond its territory. There exists an opportunity, in this frozen state of progression, to re-appropriate the territory of the construction site as an advantageous residue of an unplanned halt.

This studio will explore the potentials of tectonic interludes into this dormant condition. The intention is to thoroughly develop a project serving local interest(s) as a population of small-scale blips in the city while contributing to grander strategies of urban atmosphere and energy expenditure and production. Acknowledging varying time scales, multiple sites, loosening of an interior and exterior, and challenging public space and safety, the work is intended as speculation on the attachment of altered construction to existing infrastructure and, when stalled or failed to be completed, its contribution and development as an operational and experimental addition to the site and larger context. Projects will work through and with the logics of building techniques, assembly annotations, and construction sequencing all the while juggling an out of place, overconstructed program, i.e.: parachute tower; tree farm; cloud maker. With over 600 stalled construction sites within New York City alone, the highly publicized halt to Filene’s Basement in Boston, the questionable continuation of the Spire in Chicago, and Detroit’s own narrative, the studio seeks to open discussion to respective conditions and potentials. Given the overwhelming density of the stalled conditions within Brooklyn’s Williamsburg neighborhood, travel to this borough is being proposed.

There is something peculiar about a collection of materials that cannot be inhabited as a building; either not yet a building, or failing to remain a building. Therefore, the intention of the project is to feed off of the construction site, vacant building, abandoned road work, (intriguingly the list can continue) as a place for seemingly absurd alterations in use. A stall in one assemblage of materials allots for the chance instrumentalization of another.