

Sartorial Architecture



Email: tszng@umich.edu

Often referred to as the second skin, clothing has been likened to the envelope of a building, a protective layer from the exterior world. From the decorum of dress of Vitruvius to the knots of Gottfried Semper, clothing and architecture have historically been 'threaded' so to speak in architectural theory. Clothing and architecture have long shared many affinities ranging from manufacturing processes to their impact upon all manner of social and cultural formations through design. While the Industrial Revolution of the 19th C. recalibrated efficiency in terms of the time and labor necessary to perform repeated tasks by humans in textile manufacturing and building construction, a whole other set of terms emerged around the questions of making, craftsmanship, and aesthetics. Standardization for/from industrial mass-production went hand in hand with the emergence of other social and cultural phenomena - from the formulation of fashion in both the dressing of the body and the environment we live in, to the shaping of social habits and institutions.

Sartorial Architecture is a theory and material investigation course that examines the allied disciplines of architecture and clothing production. Sartorial Architecture situates architecture and clothing production through new forms of technological experimentation. The creative loci lie in not only conflating processes, but also exploring how new models of making could inform cutting-edge production with novel experiences. Through readings, lectures, and discussions, weekly topics will explore specific techniques of making coupled with exercises of material exploration. Drawings will be our design tool in these exercises to facilitate fabrication processes and prototyping. The making aspect of the course seeks to open up the potential when hybridization of disciplinary processes and design are integral to material studies outside our normative association.



Top left: Nervous System, Kinematic Dress, above, Iris Van Herpen, Magnet Motion collection, SS15