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Acts of Dissent

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Human actions and industrial growth are wreaking havoc on our planet. As Earth's health declines and crisis talks heat up, critique of societal progress is reaching an apogee. While conventional teleological development narratives continue to influence politics and policymaking, a rising tide of activists, researchers, legislators, and everyday people refuse to stand idle amidst escalating environmental degradation, and their defiance is forging fresh, speculative possibilities for our field.

Drawing insights from environmental movements, *Acts of Dissent* examines the rich nexus of architecture and urban design with militant campaigns championing ecological conservation and societal justice. Armed with soup cans and a robust legal arsenal, today's climate activism transitions from traditional protests to sharper, more targeted tactics. Additionally, they offer living paradigms and resource allocation frameworks that directly contest the conspicuous consumption patterns characteristic of our time. To test how acts of resistance are charting the course towards new spatial and organizational possibilities in the built environment, the studio will work collectively on a rigorous exploration of pivotal junctures within environmentalism, spanning both historical

and contemporary contexts. Together, we will scrutinize the underpinnings of earlier paradigms influenced by the rapid ascendancy of industrial and urban developments, and the subsequent emergence of wilderness conservation and its associated theoretical constructs. Current movements, both in their material and ideological dimensions, will augment the research, foregrounding transformative strategies of societal and political resistance.

The studio's framework will offer substantial conceptual scaffolding, anchoring a theoretical stance within a historical continuum. Positioning the built environment as a crucible for protest, we situate the interplay of space, architecture, and urban planning in either aiding or constraining activist endeavors. Key examples will encompass concepts like reversible architectures, adaptive reuse, ephemeral installations, and performance, spotlighting architectural initiatives that disrupt conventional norms with a focus on sustainability and defiance. Yet, the studio's outcomes will be autonomously directed, culminating in works that anticipate our evolving climate landscape and envisage spatial futures underpinned by solidarity and survivability.

Anya Sirota | sirota@akoaki.com