

Land as

This seminar focuses on land and its spatial dimensions. Architecture and urban planning have largely benefited from an understanding of land as colonial, capitalist real property. Yet, countervailing land-based practices have long persisted and been cultivated alongside and against normative property systems. This course will thus examine how architecture and planning have come to depend on a particular, problematic notion of real property and, more importantly, explore the historical, theoretical, and practical possibilities

of land as a collective medium for environmental relations. The course will include instructor lectures, reading discussions, guest speakers, site visits, and one semester-long assignment. Students will engage with texts from a variety of fields including architectural, urban, sociological, ecological, legal, and political theory. We will use the term *landways* (drawing from the term *foodways*), to study the land-based knowledge, beliefs, and practices of particular places and/or communities. *Landways* intersect with cultural values, power relations, and ecological

dynamics, and, in the process, produce expressions of spatial culture. Over the course of the semester, seminar participants will incrementally develop a written and visual case study report on the *landways* of a particular place, which may be long-established or experimental in nature. By the end of the term, students will have gained the ability to participate in the discourse around land and property, understand their profession's relation to these topics, decode land-related spatial politics, and visualize land as a medium for belonging and earthly life.

Spatial

Course: Arch 506
Credits: 3
Schedule: Mondays, 8:30-11:30am
Term: Winter 2025
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How does 'land' mediate environmental relations?

How do architecture and planning intersect with land struggles?

How do contemporary conditions put 'property' into question?

How do land-based practices transcend normative property systems?

How to contribute to collective, reciprocal, and reparative landways?

Practices