



# DISTRICT + NETWORK

love of the local

This seminar explores the phenomenon of the district in counterpoint to the dominance of network infrastructures. Whether in food, water, energy, or data, the difference between one place and another still matters, and the local has increased appeal. This is all the more true of architecture, especially in the types and configurations of similar buildings. What makes typology such a vital, inexhaustible way to understand architecture? Thus an architect does well to understand districts. As a phenomenon, a district is emergent, resilient, participatory, usually unofficial, and often rich in architectural character. A district may serve as a major node on a network, for example in food, or it may cluster an activity better than remote media can do, for example in the arts. This seminar explores these phenomenon by means of shared weekly focus on a particular locale, plus an ongoing individual journal on a chosen resource network, such as water, food, energy, mobility, or media. This work might sample street views, historic photos or drawings, and satellite photography. The result is a small thematic atlas on your chosen theme. With an increased focus on building types, this is a new version of a course that has run for nearly 20 years under previous names "Networked Cities" and "American Space." Although with a 500 number, the course is also open to undergraduates. The skillset is mainly descriptive: this course should help you see, describe, protect, and enhance local difference in architecture. For the difference between one place and another still matters.

By building type...

**BROWNSTONE DISTRICT**  
Sandstone stoops as social media;  
to activate, just sit awhile and talk.

**BUNGALOW BELT**  
"Wide lawns and narrow minds?"  
You don't know what else lives here.

**FORT SQUARE**  
Splashy dot-orgs in crisp old barracks.

**IRONFRONT DISTRICT**  
Tin ceiling, parquet floor,  
stenciled wall, grand front door.

By infrastructure...

**ALLEY TOWN**  
Docking ports for tiny houses.

**ECO-VILLAGE**  
Locavores and locavolts,  
water rights and council nights.

**ESCALATOR DISTRICT**  
Amazon, schmamazon,  
shopping is a journey.

**TITANIUM DISTRICT**  
Live, workshare, and ride  
the best bandwidth in town.

By activity...

**CREATIVE DISTRICT**  
Not sure what this says about the rest of town.

**FASHION DISTRICT**  
Upstairs runways for the few,  
but on the sidewalk the styles are district.

**FLOWER DISTRICT**  
Scents of tulips, roses,  
pizza, and truck exhaust.

**MEATPACKING DISTRICT**  
Lattes, loading docks, landlords,  
and a last few lamb chops.

**PULSE DISTRICT**  
Timbres, atmospheres, stage doors, and beats.

By social group...

**GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
Gray flannel suits,  
precision briefcase drill team.

**JACOBIN VILLAGE**  
The revolution will not be clickable.

**TAGALOG TOWN**  
Magandang umaga,  
magandang aksyon dito.

**WINNERS CIRCLE**  
No dress code here,  
but don't you violate it.

By landmark...

**FOUNTAIN DISTRICT**  
Sparkling, spraying, cooling, meeting,  
kids playing, drums beating.

**MANSSION ROW**  
Captains of industry, back in the day,  
Russians laundering money today.

**FOUNDERS PLAZA**  
Wander stone paved squares, drop a dollar in the hat.

