



Mavericks, the Multitude, and the Mesa

Within the canons of western mythology and societal practice(s), the landscape construct of the desert has been positioned as a place in which outcasts, heretics, and visionaries have been voluntarily and involuntarily displaced in order to repent, reconcile, and imagine possible worlds. In America, since the time of its settler colonization, the desert has also been a territory of extreme cultural experimentation – consumer, technological, military, utopian, environmental...

At the geological edge where the Sonoran Desert meets the Colorado Plateau, this studio section will engage three subjects in search of social, conceptual, material and systemic propositions:

- (i) **Mavericks:** renegade disciplinary and adjacent figures whose work and ideas have defined trajectories of design possibility within this terrain.
- (ii) **the Multitude:** cultural groups assembled and formed within the political and socio-economic landscape of actors and agents that shape the southwest.
- (iii) **the Mesa:** constructed landforms and landscape constructs that structure potential engagement with the land and its species.

A series of team-based research projects during the early semester will introduce students to a range of design research methodologies and projects that will structure dialog within this Propositions Studio and enable students to position and undertake team-based design propositions catalyzing individual obsessions across a range of scales within the frameworks and territory set forth for the studio.

We currently anticipate that the studio will travel to the Sonoran Desert DTW→PHX Oct 2026 (+/--\$600)

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