



## Fall 2026: **ARCH 409/503** *The Distributed Site*

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*The Distributed Site* is a postdisciplinary seminar spanning critical issues in architecture, archaeology, historic preservation, and allied fields. Through discussion, theory, and experimental representation, we will consider the spatial, temporal, methodological, and political dimensions of “site.”

What is a “site”? How is “site” located in space and time? How can we reckon with multiple and competing understandings of “site?” How do we practice in relation to “site?” Do our disciplines adequately represent “site?” We will explore these questions by considering the ways in which the spatial locations of seemingly discrete buildings are actually distributed across a multiplicity of disciplines, institutions, histories, and, at times, even places as well.

We will study four points of Wall Street’s distribution: first, the *origin sites* of the houses on Wall Street; second, the *collection sites* where field notes and still-uncatalogued artifacts salvaged from Wall Street houses by U-M archaeologist Henry Wright are stored; third, the *host sites* in Ann Arbor where two Wall Street houses have been moved and preserved; and fourth, the *memory sites* of intergenerational knowledge, both Indigenous and colonial, around Ann Arbor’s conjoined histories of settlement and unsettlement.

Connecting, recontextualizing, and critically representing these four sets of sites, we will confront “history” not only as temporal but also as spatial: the very ground on which we design and build. As well as complicating notions of “site” in architecture, archaeology, and historic preservation, the seminar will also rethink received versions of Indigenous and colonial history and land by studying the early 19th century built environment not only as a space of colonial settlement and Indigenous displacement but also Indigenous, African-American, and settler contact and exchange.

*This class is open to students from architecture, archaeology, art history, SEAS, anthropology, information studies, history, and related disciplines.*