

# **Territory as interior**

**A tale of two ports. Building solidarities**

**MIT 4.163 Urban Design Studio**

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## Description

**The MIT Urban Design Studio brings together research and design to investigate key contemporary urban transformations at the territorial scale.** It questions the conventional orientation of urban design towards the space and the scale of the city by unpacking the relation between settlements and their supporting territories.

The studio work therefore expands towards metropolitan and territorial scales.

**A key objective of the studio is the questioning of urban asymmetries.** A central characteristic of the process of urbanization is the deliberate construction of differences and uneven relations. Urban design systematically works to distribute differences of land uses, rent, social services, and access to infrastructure and equipment across a given territory. Such differences often reinforce already existing social and environmental dynamics, turning urbanism into a tool of social reproduction instead of a tool to construct alternatives and more equitable spatial systems. Such a system of differences is both social and ecological, determining different gradients of ecological preservation, ecological services, or—on the contrary—establishing areas of sacrifice.

The urban design studio interrogates this position through strategies of spatial and ecological redistribution.

**The externalization of productive, energetic, and metabolic functions is one of the drivers of uneven social relations.** Cities have historically externalized key aspects of their functioning, a process that accelerated extremely after the 1970s wave of deindustrialization. Energy production, food systems, waste management, industrial production, and areas of resource extraction have now been placed out of urban cores. As a result, spaces usually considered outside of the realm of urban design must grapple with the environmental externalities of production—different modes of ecological violence oscillating between pollution to biodiversity loss to strong geographical transformations.

Challenging urban asymmetries requires questioning externalities by understanding how metabolic process can be properly integrated or internalized within the urban realm.

**The Urban Design Studio thus claims metabolic relations and productive and infrastructural processes as key constituents of a territorial understanding of urbanization.** The discipline of urban design has focused on the spatial qualities of the built form. While this disciplinary core is indispensable and remains a key component of the studio, our profession needs to expand its toolkit to engage with the metabolic

process that ensure the functioning of cities. Engaging with these systems should constitute the basis of a new spatial politics which integrates urban design's historic concerns—the adequate provision of housing, social equipment and open space—within a broader ecological framework that enhances living systems and minimizes environmental externalities.

**As a core subject of the SMArchS Urbanism concentration, the MIT Urban Design Studio situates research at central to design.** As an instrument of knowledge production, the urban design process is a tool to describe, understand, and conceptualize a place and to use that knowledge as the base for propositions that take spatial organization into a new direction. The studio works by foregrounding a series of questions—a geographic space, the questioning of urban asymmetries, the challenge of externalities, and the construction of new spatial politics—as drivers of an inquiry about spatial, social, and ecological organization conducted through design means.

## Context



On December 3, 1992 oil tanker Aegean Sea suffered an accident while on route to the Port of A Coruña, Spain. The crash, happening under extreme weather conditions, resulted in a 67,000 tons spill of light-crude oil which was originally destined to A Coruña refinery. The 250,000-inhabitants city was evacuated due to the resulting fires and

smoke. The oil spill extended for over 300 km of coast, causing ecological, economic, and social damage in a region where livelihoods are extremely dependent from the sea.

The Aegean Sea oil spill was neither the first, nor the last on Galician coasts. On May 12, 1976, the supertanker *Urquiola* crashed against an *agulla* (an underwater rock) at the channel entrance to A Coruña and caused a 107,000 tons oil spill. Again, on November 13, 2002, the tanker *Prestige* crashed against Galicia's Costa da Morte, liberating 77,000 tons of crude oil. The result was Spain's most important ecological catastrophe, suffered predominantly—once more—on Galician's coast.

The *Prestige* accident accelerated an already undergoing initiative to build an outport in the periphery of A Coruña, so that ships carrying oil, carbon, and other pollutant materials avoided entering the city's historic port. After testing three different locations, the Government of Spain chose Punta Langosteira (Lobsters' End), a section of the coast situated South of A Coruña, in the neighboring municipality of Arteixo, as the new outport's site. Construction started in 2005, allowing commercial activities to begin in 2012.

The Punta Langosteira project is a massive infrastructure, twice the size of the original port. The new surfaces allow the Port Authority translating to the new port most of the functions and facilities of the original one, liberating around 115 hectares of land (285 acres) for new uses and over 7 km of coast in the city of A Coruña.

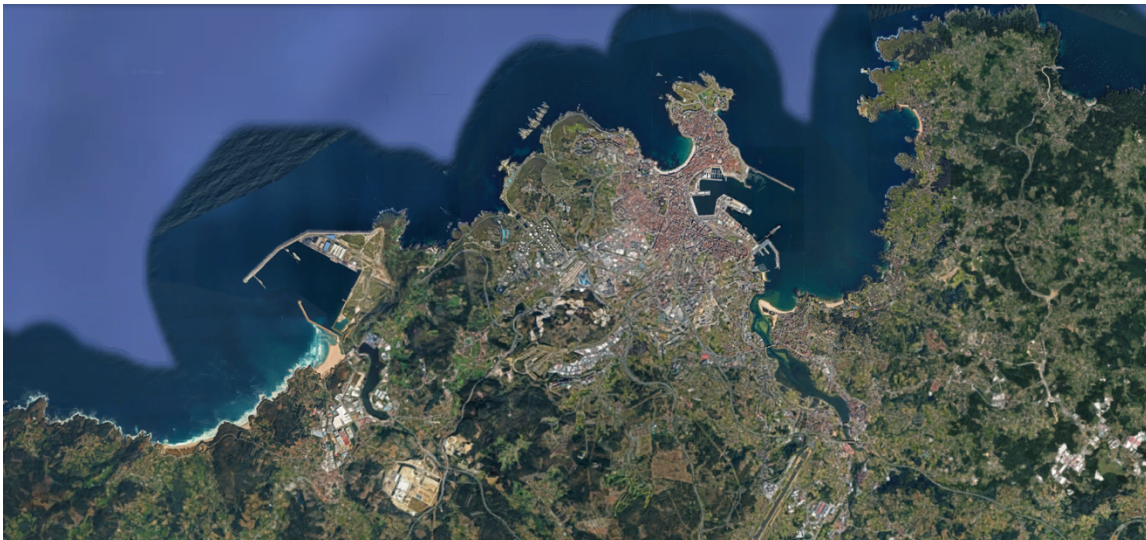
The historical port and the outport can be conceptualized as reciprocal landscapes. The construction of the new port facilitates the incorporation to the city of the historical one and the transformation of its former uses, dictating the schedule of change as well as its financial constraints. This reciprocal relation is also a process of externalization, which preserves an area of high social, cultural, and capital value (the historic center of A Coruña) by translating to an external destination some of the hazardous activities that historically happened there. This external destination corresponds to a peripheral municipality, of lower rent, that houses most of the industry of the urban region. The construction of the outport thus reinforces preexisting urban asymmetries: A Coruña strengthens its character as a service, higher-rent city, while Arteixo consolidates its industrial character.

These asymmetries also affect the role administrations assign to urban design. The now liberated historic port of A Coruña will be redesigned through a competition between five members of the international architectural star-system. The potentials of the site have been abundantly discussed in the public sphere and are considered the most important transformation the city will have in this century. By contrast, Punta Langosteira remains

a design externality. It is a space almost invisible, hidden by a mountain that also protects it. It is a bounded area, inaccessible by the public; a result of engineering processes, rather than urban or territorial design. Its spatial implications remain fundamentally under analyzed beyond the mere parameters of environmental impact assessments.

The outport and the historical port constitute reciprocal landscapes of almost opposite values: the visible and the invisible, the accessible and the hidden, the architecturally designed and the engineered. They constitute key actors in a process of territorial differentiation between geographic areas and settlements considered of high cultural and economic value and areas considered as necessary supporting spaces—a territorial logic that also translates to the differential living conditions of the two municipalities where they sit.

## Objectives and structure



The goal of the studio is to interrogate existing territorial imbalances through proposals for the two sites, looking for strategies of solidarity that question the current system of oppositions. With that goal, we will explore how to treat the externalities of urbanization as elements that should be designed, properly integrated in their contexts, and that may catalyze new forms of spatial organization. We will investigate how to recuperate the importance of ecology, geography, and territory, both in the context of the outport and in the city, with the aim of creating stronger equilibria between city and hinterland. These explorations will be driven by an overall understanding that that contemporary urban and

territorial design must favor a social, ecological, and energetic transition towards more equitable modes coexistence.

Participants in the studio will be divided in two sections, each corresponding to the two sites—the historical port of A Coruña and the Punta Langosteira outpost—together with their surrounding municipalities. By working on two sites that maintain a reciprocal, yet oppositional relation, our objectives are:

- a) to understand the two ports as part of a single territorial logic and to intervene in it;
- b) to determine spatial strategies that reconnect the ports with their social and ecological context;
- c) to activate each site's potential by injecting new activities; mainly regarding new economic and social sectors;
- d) to question the existing drastic differentiation between a service-oriented, heavily integrated site and an externalized, industry-oriented one by transforming relations of opposition into relations of solidarity.

The work is structured in a tripartite sequence: Part 1: Hypotheses - Design Research; Part 2: Concepts - Design; Part 3: Conclusions.

Part 1 is a research-oriented phase allowing students to understand the two sites and to start defining their design proposition by defining hypothesis about the site's transformation. Mapping, diagramming, and writing will be crucial tools at this stage. Students will compile these materials in a research document supporting the projects' hypotheses and narratives. During this phase we will also work on a collective site model that will allow us to visualize the site.

Part 2 consists of individual development of a project for the site students have selected. The process seeks to facilitate the transition from initial hypothesis to well formulated concepts representing potential territorial futures. Design deliverables will combine plans and model, at scales adequate to each project, together with visualizations.

Part 3 focuses on consolidating student's narratives, drawing firm conclusions from their research, and refining the representational techniques that most effectively drive their arguments.

## Schedule



Luis Diaz Diaz. Punta Langosteira. 2026

### PART I: HYPOTHESIS - DESIGN RESEARCH

#### Week 1. Introduction.

**Tu September 8**

Studio Preview

**Fr September 11**

Part 1: Introduction to the studio. Presentation of Exercise 1: individual research on recent intervention of ports.

Part 2: GIS workshop.

#### Week 2. Design Research and site selection.

**Tu September 15**

Part 1: Lecture: Estar, Aurora Armental and Stefano Ciurlo.

Part 2: Presentation and discussion of individual research on recent interventions on ports.

Deliverable: Analysis of 2 ports per student, represented through diagrams representing scale, relation to context, and uses.

Part 3: Explanation of Exercise 2: Analysis and research. Divide mapping layers between students. The research will be conducted for A Coruña and Arteixo municipalities

- Ecologies: Water system (including historical), topography, and ecological systems, in plan and section. Connect ecology and geography.
- Economies: Land uses, plot structure, agriculture, industries
- Fabrics: Built fabric, infrastructure, and historic development of industry and settlement. Typologies.
- Temporalities: Different time processes involved. Existing and future urban plans

**Fr September 19**

Part 1: Reading discussion:

- Paola Viganò, The Project as Knowledge Producer, 11-49.
- Paola Viganò. Interview with Obradoiro.

Part 2: Initial presentation of exercise 2 draft. Deliverable: Cartographies of each of the layers and other research mechanisms (sections, diagrams, visualizations, photographs) explaining the analyzed conditions.

Part 3: Selection of site. Group 1: Historical Port. Group 2: Punta Langosteira.

### **Week 3. Design Research.**

**Tu September 22**

Part 1: Lecture: 1010 architects, Nadia Casabella and Bert Gellynck

Part 2: Presentation of exercise 2. Deliverable: Cartographies of each of the layers and other research mechanisms (sections, diagrams, visualizations, photographs) explaining the analyzed conditions.

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fr September 26</b>            | <p><u>Part 1:</u> Reading discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florian Beigel and Philip Christou (ARU), Saemsageun</li> <li>• Florian Beigel and Philip Christou (ARU), Pagu Book City</li> <li>• Florian Beigel and Philip Christou (ARU), Lichtenfelde Sud</li> </ul> <p><u>Part 2:</u> Desk-crits. Discuss initial approaches to site.</p> <p><b><u>Week 4 Design Research.</u></b></p> |
| <b>Tu September 29</b>            | <p><u>Part 1:</u> Lecture: Luis Díaz Díaz</p> <p><u>Part 2:</u> Conclusion Exercise 2. Presentation of final deliverable.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Fr October 2</b>               | <p><u>Part 1:</u> Reading discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andre Corbosz. Land as palimpsest</li> <li>• Cedric Price. Potteries Think belt</li> </ul> <p>Part 2: Desk crits. Initial approaches to site</p> <p><b><u>Week 5. Review &amp; Transition</u></b></p>                                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>Tu October 6</u></b>        | <b><u>External review 1.</u></b> Present initial hypothesis about the site's transformation. Deliverable: Diagrams, Plans, Sections. Scale: TBD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Fr October 9                      | Meet the TA. Instructor absent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>PART II: CONCEPTS - DESIGN</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                   | <p><b><u>Week 6. Site plan</u></b></p> <p>Plan and diagrams for the entire site representing spatial organizational strategies</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Tu October 13                     | <b>Monday schedule no class</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Fr October 16                     | Desk crits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                   | <p><b><u>Week 7. Zoom in</u></b></p> <p>Development of site's spatial organizational strategies. Consider and define what are the typologies at play.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tu October 20                     | <p><u>Part 1:</u> Lecture: Manuel Rodriguez, Fundacion RIA</p> <p><u>Part 2:</u> Desk crits. Week's findings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fr October 23          | Desk crits. Week's design                                                                                                                                         |
|                        | <b><u>Week 8. Zoom out. Interrelate</u></b>                                                                                                                       |
|                        | Development of site's spatial organizational strategies. Define the mechanisms of relation, infrastructural, metabolic between your intervention and its context. |
| Tu October 27          | <u>Part 1:</u> Lecture: Martín Fernández Prado, President, A Coruña Port Authority                                                                                |
|                        | <u>Part 2:</u> Desk crits. Week's findings                                                                                                                        |
| Fr October 30          | Desk crits. Week's design                                                                                                                                         |
|                        | <b><u>Week 9. Zoom in. Materialize</u></b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b><u>Tu Nov 3</u></b> | <b><u>Review 2. Internal Pin-up. Present project development. Diagrams, plans, sections, visualizations</u></b>                                                   |
| Fr Nov 6               | Desk crits                                                                                                                                                        |
|                        | <b><u>Week 10. Zoom out. Contextualize</u></b>                                                                                                                    |
|                        | Reconsider and define the relations between your intervention and its broader geographic context                                                                  |
| Tu Nov 10              | Desk crits. Week's findings.                                                                                                                                      |
| Fr Nov 13              | Desk crits. Week's design                                                                                                                                         |
|                        | <b><u>Week 11. Go forward</u></b>                                                                                                                                 |
|                        | <b><u>Sequences. Temporal logics of implementation.</u></b>                                                                                                       |
| Tu Nov 17              | Desk crits. Week's findings.                                                                                                                                      |
| Fr Nov 20              | Desk crits. Week's design                                                                                                                                         |
|                        | <b><u>Week 12. Return</u></b>                                                                                                                                     |
|                        | <b><u>Conclude</u></b>                                                                                                                                            |
| Tu Nov 24              | <b><u>External review 3. Internal Pin-up. Present project development. Diagrams, plans, sections, model, visualizations</u></b>                                   |
| Fr Nov 27              | No class. Thanksgiving break.                                                                                                                                     |

## PART III: CONCLUSION

### Week 13.

Tu December 1      Desk crits. Conclusion of the project's main proposals.  
Representation

Fr December 4      Desk crits. Conclusion of the project's main proposals.  
Representation

### Week 14. Final review

Tue December 8      Desk crits. Conclusion of the project's main proposals.  
Representation

Th December 10      Final review

## Territory and territorial design

A key goal of this studio is to approach urban design from a territorial prism.

This territorial project requires dealing with the different layers, or components, territory has. With that goal, we will approach territory through three main lenses, which have informed geographic and urban literature from the second half of the twentieth century on.

### **Strand 1. Territoriality. Shaping space through resource relations.**

A first strand of literature approaches territory because of a previous process of *territoriality*. This is a position articulated in the late 1970s and 1980s by scholars such as Claude Raffestin, Robert Sacks or Edward Soja. The authors who developed the idea of territoriality understand that humans act as other animal species when they define and delimit the territories they occupy in relation to the resources that exist in them. In this sense, the organization of human territories is intrinsically linked first to the reproduction of life, and second to the structuring of economical systems. Metabolic considerations can be integrated in this approach to territory.

Territoriality let us understand the relation between ecologies (as these inform which resources humans can use) and economies. Historically, this relation has been mediated by different modes of resource management which often had a collective nature. In the Galician context, this communal form of resource management informed the use of wood land and the sea. The *montes comunais* (common woods) were used for forestry

and grazing and managed through shared decision-making processes. The *confrarias* (seamen brotherhoods) performed a similar task regarding fishing.

Communal structures were reduced or eliminated during the Spanish dictatorship (1936 to 1975). They were substituted by a process of land and resource appropriation that continues nowadays. Some of the new land uses, from wind energy farms to monoculture forests do represent the current version of land appropriation, although in some cases they also establish positive agreements with owners and the *montes comunais*. In this sense, while the approach to territory through the lens of territoriality seems to initially prioritize the economic prism, there's an inherently political question involving who owns the resources and how these are used and distributed. *Territory as Interior* invites you to explore how the territorial economies your building will reinforce can also promote collective systems of resource management and work outside of the logics of territorial and economic appropriation.

## **Strand 2. Territory as a cultural construct**

A second strand of territorial literature develops the idea of territory as a cultural product or, in other words, as a transformation of the natural world into a human artifact. This position relies heavily on the learnings of human geography and anthropology. Its strongest representation in architecture were the variegated territorial discourses developed in Italy during the late 1960s and early 1970s by authors such as Saverio Muratori, Vittorio Gregotti, Aldo Rossi, Franco Purini, Claudio Borradori or Antonio Palermo. While there are notable differences between these authors, we can highlight here some shared aspects of their discourses.

- **Territory is an autonomous spatial category.**

The notable urban growth European and North American cities experienced during the 1950s and 1960s, led Italian architects to develop the notion of *città-territorio*, (city-territory). This notion proposed that cities had become so big that they had to be considered as a territory—or rather, the territory had been converted into a city. In this sense, the category of territory was somehow equated to that of urbanization.

The approach to territory developed by Muratori, Gregotti, or Rossi differed from this idea of *città-territorio*. They posited that architects had to consider “territory” in its own right, as an autonomous spatial category, different than city or urbanization. Territory hosted a diversity of elements. It contained cities together with other type of settlements. It included agricultural fields and a multitude of

productive systems. It was not characterized only by buildings, but by natural elements and ecological systems. A territory was thus a specific cultural, spatial, and economic configuration or assemblage of all those aspects.

While the idea of *città-territorio* was fundamentally linked to urban growth, that of territory was above all connected to planetarization. For Muratori, for instance, the fact that humans had already occupied the entire surface of the earth through multiple settlements and infrastructural systems, meant that architects had to start designing at a geographical scale. Gregotti and the team he articulated for the special issue “The Form of Territory” of *Edilizia Moderna* argued that planetarization was also causing huge geographical transformations—from the deployment of massive agricultural areas to the transformation of climates—which could only be addressed by territorial action.

This position is crucial for us. Importantly, it led to important explorations in architectural design. Also, it advocated for the need to go beyond the problems and scales associated to cities that had constituted (and still do) the core of architectural production and argued that to address the ecological, environmental, energetic, or productive challenges derived from planetarization requires thinking and acting upon territorial scales. In this sense, this group of authors argued for the relevance of designing territories, not cities.

– **Territory as artifact and technology**

All these authors sustained that human modification of geographical space and environmental conditions led to the definition of different types of territorial systems. These territorial systems could be understood as expression of human cultures and techniques. The notion of territorial interpretation we took from Muratori is perhaps the clearest expression of this approach. Each mode of territorial organization constitutes, in this view, a conscious interpretation, or elaboration of geographical space. This interpretation is spatialized through human artifacts: from systems of land division to modes of cultivation and irrigation, to infrastructures, to landmarks. Territory is here an architectural and technical question. Human artifacts structure the way territory works and our experience of it. They create systems of reference, means to orient ourselves in geographical space. Artifacts make geography human. In this regard, the work of Rossi, Muratori, or Gregotti is like the reticulation of geography by technical means described by Gilbert Simondon in his *On The Mode of Existence of*

*Technical Objects.* Architecture and technical systems are both instruments to organize geographical space

The fact that territory is a human organization of geographic space into different spatial structures bring the question about how to represent those spatial systems. Mapping became a crucial tool for Italian thinkers about territory, who posited the need to develop systems of cartographic representation that could bring together different natural and land made elements. Cartographies could thus include rivers and water bodies; irrigation and productive systems; infrastructures and geographical features, to understand the relation settlements had with all of them.

This work of cartographic production was aimed at the identification of different territorial systems. Cartography showed their different spatial features, as well as the opportunities these provided for further development. The contrast between architects as Gregotti, Rossi or Muratori was not methodological (they all emphasized the value of cartography) but projective. Whereas for Muratori, cartographies could help us understand the stable dimensions of territory and factor a project of preservation, for Gregotti or Rossi, they allowed to understand temporal evolution of a territory, and the possibilities it offered for further transformation.

This approach to territory will inform our work. The construction of hypotheses in the design-research phase of the studio is heavily connected to the different interpretations of territory we may make. Cartographic production and other tools of visualization are key instruments in this process. The definition of territorial strategies and concepts is also, ultimately, a way to make the territory readable.

– **Territory is a space of transformation.**

Cartographic registers help unveil the temporal dimension of spatial structuring. They allow us to understand the different configurations a territory has had over time, and what propelled the transition between successive territorial models. Historic cartographies may reveal territorial invariants (features that remain constant, geographical elements that maintain a structuring presence, or systems of land division that remain hidden under changing architectural or urban configurations). But cartographies also reveal those elements that drastically changed how a territory worked and even its extents and relations.

The introduction of novel infrastructural, energetic, or technical systems drastically alters previous territorial organizations. Human artifacts thus act as triggers for potential transformations, creating new systems and new scales of spatial relations. Both the historical port and the outport constitute drastic transformations of a preexisting geography, and tools to produce a new set of geographical relations. In the studio we investigate how the spatialization of new infrastructures and economic sectors can become tools to comprehend the territorial relations of which they participate.

### **Strand 3. Territory as a political construct**

The last theoretical understanding of territory is perhaps the less explicitly architectural. It consists in the understanding of territory as a politically configured space, where a certain type of power exerts its political sovereignty. This idea has been recently, and successfully, summarized by Stuart Elden's definition of territory as a "political technology," but it builds upon previous formulations by German political theorist Carl Schmitt, French geographer Jean Gottman, or philosopher Michel Foucault. All these thinkers focus on the relation between the control of the land and the construction of political orders.

In this light, the structuring of a territory is enabled by the convergence of politico-legal and spatial mechanisms. This approach to territory seeks producing clear spatial delimitations and divisions, so that political power can be exercised "monopolistically" on a certain area, and on those communities living in it. Territory appears here as the spatial expression of power, which is then distributed at different scales. Administrative subdivisions from state, to region, to municipality corresponds to this political understanding of territory.

This last angle opens a question about the role architecture plays in helping articulate alternative scales of political organization. The traditional structure of settlement in Galicia was divided in *bisbarras* (Parishes). Currently, there is a municipal subdivision in small towns that is oblivious to the continuity of settlement, infrastructures, and productive uses. This municipal subdivision is ill-suited for managing the urban process, and for addressing the new energetic and productive needs derived from global demands of decarbonization or materials. By reassociating urbanism and systems of production, *A Tale of Two Ports. Building Solidarity* seeks to investigate which what themes and scales should be politically articulated in the urban region of A Coruña.

## **Fundacion RIA**

The studio is the third iteration of a collaboration with Fundacion RIA, an initiative by architect David Chipperfield aimed at developing a sustainable territorial culture in Galicia. Fundación RIA also approaches the convergence between economies and ecologies this studio explores. Their aim is “to develop a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute towards quality of life beyond conventional economic assessments such as GDP,” thus exploring how Galicia “can set a European benchmark for sustainable development.” In this sense, the Fundacion is interested in an alternative approach to economics. Currently, RIA is initiating the process to develop a territorial vision for Galicia.

## **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

We acknowledge Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the land, and the enduring relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories. The lands which MIT occupies are the traditional unceded territories of the Wampanoag Nation and the Massachusetts Peoples. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced occupation of these territories, as well as the ongoing processes of colonialism and dispossession in which we and our institution are implicated. Beyond the stolen territory which we physically occupy, MIT has long profited from the sale of federal lands granted by the Morrill Act, territories stolen from 82 Tribes including the Greater and Little Osage, Chippewa, and Omaha Peoples. As we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous people connected to this land from time immemorial, we seek to Indigenize our institution and the field of planning, offer Space, and leave Indigenous peoples in more empowered positions.

## **Inclusive Class and Classroom**

MIT values an inclusive environment. I hope to foster a sense of community in this classroom and consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect. I welcome individuals of all backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, religious and political affiliations – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. If this standard is not being upheld, please feel free to speak with me.

## **Special Accommodations**

MIT is committed to the principle of equal access. Students who need disability accommodations are encouraged to speak with Disability and Access Services (DAS), prior to or early in the semester so that accommodation requests can be evaluated and addressed in a timely fashion. If you have a disability and are not planning to use accommodations, it is still recommended that you meet with DAS staff to familiarize yourself with their services and resources. Please visit the DAS website for contact information. If you have already been approved for accommodations, class staff are ready to assist with implementation. Please inform Professor Ryan at [bdr@mit.edu](mailto:bdr@mit.edu) who will oversee accommodation implementation for this course.

## **Grading definition**

- A. Exceptionally good performance demonstrating a superior understanding of the subject matter, a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials.
- B. Good performance demonstrating capacity to use the appropriate concepts, a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and materials encountered in the subject.
- C. Adequate performance demonstrating an adequate understanding of the subject matter, an ability to handle relatively simple problems, and adequate preparation for moving on to more advanced work in the field.
- D. Minimally acceptable performance demonstrating at least partial familiarity with the subject matter and some capacity to deal with relatively simple problems but also demonstrating deficiencies serious enough to make it inadvisable to proceed further in the field without additional work.
- F. Failed. This grade also signifies that the student must repeat the subject to receive credit.
- NE. No record will appear on the external transcript.

## **Academic Integrity and Honesty**

MIT's expectations and policies regarding academic integrity should be read carefully and adhered to diligently. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Read: <http://integrity.mit.edu>.

## Writing and Communication Resources

The WCC at MIT (Writing and Communication Center) offers free one-on-one professional advice from communication experts. The WCC is staffed completely by MIT lecturers. All have advanced degrees. All are experienced college classroom teachers of communication. All are all are published scholars and writers. The WCC helps you strategize about all types of academic and professional writing as well as about all aspects of oral presentations (including practicing classroom presentations & conference talks as well as designing slides). No matter what department or discipline you are in, the WCC helps you think your way more deeply into your topic, helps you see new implications in your data, research, and ideas. The WCC also helps with all English as Second Language issues, from To register with our online scheduler and to make appointments, go to <https://mit.mywconline.com/>. To access the WCC's many pages of advice about writing and oral presentations, go to <http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/>. Check the online scheduler for up-to-date hours and available appointments.

## Student Performance Criteria. NAAB

Realm A: Critical Thinking and Representation

• A1. Communication Skills: Ability to read, write, speak and listen effectively• A2. Design Thinking Skills: Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards. • A3. Visual Communication Skills: Ability to use appropriate representational media, such as traditional graphic and digital technology skills, to convey essential formal elements at each stage of the programming and design process. • A5. Investigative Skills: Ability to gather, assess, record, apply, and comparatively evaluate relevant information within architectural coursework and design processes.

## Communication with the instructor

I will reply to your emails promptly, usually within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Office hours are by email appointment.

## References

### Site

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Joan Busquets, *A Coruña. A Nova Cidade Marítima no Porto* (Concello da Coruña: A Coruña, 2008)

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### Territory, territoriality and economics

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