



aerial view of central de abastos wholesale center

We have a strange relationship with **stuff**... sometimes **stuff** represents us, it help us, it weigh us down, gives us away, it wastes our time. This studio will be traveling to **Mexico City**, Mexico and **La Havana**, Cuba looking at **'architectures for content'**, buildings and environments whose primary function is to contain **stuff**. This studio is interested in discerning typologies of accumulation / organization / display and will be analyzing how these spaces differ from buildings with other priorities. Contents will range from contemporary art to cultural archives to commercial inventories. As we visit these buildings/spaces we will be asking: how does each one of them approach the problem of **content**? and what are the socio-spatial conditions consequently created? We are interested in how we learn, perform or improvise our behavior towards content. This studio will use objects as proxy to understand architecture and the larger social frames within which architecture exists.

In this trip we will see canonical architecture as well as less commonly visited spaces. Throughout **Mexico City** our visits will be varied, we will be visiting museums, archives, bizarre collections, markets and even wholesale warehouses, from Diego Rivera's personal collection of pre-hispanic busts to the famous stacks of the Vasconcelos library to the **object-stuffed** booths of the downtown markets and the enormous wholesale distribution center of the Central de Abastos. We will also take day trips outside of the city to sites like the Teotihuacan pyramids, and the Ixtla ruins.

From there we will head to **Cuba** for a week. As one of the longest running socialist experiments in history, Cuba has had one of the most politicized relationships to the idea of goods. Having been under a US embargo for decades, Cuba radically redefined the value and access to goods. The recent lifting of the embargo has completely transformed the country's political and economic spheres. This studio will tackle these dense geopolitical topics with a light hand while looking at the distribution of goods/objects as an entry point into the understanding of the kinds of spaces that we build and the socio-spatial ramifications that can emerge from the different typologies of containing **stuff**...

mexico city - la havana

[architectures for content]

may 7 - may 28

faculty: [laida aguirre]

student budget [estimated budget per student, subject to change]

AIRFARE:

Detroit - CDMX	300
CDMX - La Havana	200
La Havana - Detroit	350

TRANSPORTATION:

Ground transportation	400
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ACCOMMODATIONS

(3x-4x students per room)

21 Nights x \$30 night average

Hotels	650
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INTERNATIONAL DATA PLAN

(Required)	30
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HEALTH INSURANCE

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ENTRY FEES

<i>Museums, event tickets, Tours</i>	300
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VISA	30
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FOOD \$25/day	350
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Total (per person):	2660
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Taubman Scholarship (-\$1000)	1660
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deliverables:

Students will create an animated visual catalog of accumulation/organization/display methods as new typological studies. These will be in the form of simple digital animations. There will be a pre-departure workshop for this. Instructor will provide a series of readings before departure. The studio will be visiting the offices of several designers/artists in CDMX.

detroit - mexico city

5/7

mexico city

5/7 - 5/21

la havana

5/21 - 5/28

la havana - detroit

5/28