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The Studio will discuss and speculate on contemporary spaces for collective life, understanding architecture as a mean to shape experiences. The project will be a "social condenser" capable to house art, civic life, leisure, health or sports, but essentially it will be a scenario of and for urban friction. This complex artifact will include indoor and outdoor spaces, civic center and town hall, exhibition hall, gardens and public facilities. It will be located within the old National Institute of Public Health compound in La Chimba neighborhood, at the edge of Independencia district in Santiago, Chile, according to the major's current plan of urban renewal and local demands.

"...As any territory, La Chimba is an outcome of social production and, as such, entails constant transformation and polyphonic representations. When looking at historical maps of Santiago de Chile -which express and contain both dominant ideologies and narratives of urban utopias of their time- the area of La Chimba was always represented as seen from the urban center, at the Mapocho river Southbank. For the proper city, La Chimba has always been beyond the river, on the "other side", displaced from the urban ethos. Today, its multicultural context amplifies this condition resulting in a diverse, heterogeneous territory where hybrid cultures bloom".

Any architectural intervention within this territory should be able to render and shape what in music would be "the extended field of sound" and "the extended field of time". In architecture, that would be the generation of new internal and external sociabilities, assuming that the political dimension which formalizes relationships between premises and uses will be at the core of the project agenda.

Students will be encouraged to conceive their projects as laboratories for spaces and environments that might

redefine experiences for collective life, stressing current forms of public spaces to develop new contexts for social exchange.

In order to create such scenarios, the Studio assumes that the spatial experiences of the user -and the memories they generate- result from the articulation of three architectural systems: Relations, Atmospheric and Material. Through the first one, the project will negotiate with the complexity of this "frictional territory", testing architecture's ability to establish "a collective way of life". Atmospheric and Material systems, in a more intimate scale, relate to personal affections and to particular spatial memories: ultimately, how the architectural pursue of certain atmospheric qualities conducts personal research on material and building strategies.

The Studio will operate associating and assembling collections of images, as main design devices and practical working tools in order to articulate and conduct visual discourses on the projects. Beside of the Atlas of images, drawings and models, the use of motion images or video will be promoted as an effective design tool. Professional support for the specific technics will be provided. In between a series of 5 design reviews during the semester, the students will keep a regular video connection to Santiago de Chile to ensure rich and regular exchange with the guest lecturer.

We will be connected to a Twin Studio at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago. The final results will assume the format of a series of boîte-en-valise that will travel to Chile to be presented at the Independencia City Council, in order to open up a discussion on the potential renewal of these existing infrastructure and the introduction of uses and programs for the local community.

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n a group

"Instead of the word music, which according to John Cage makes reference to tradition, we will prefer to talk about organization of sound. The architect would be an organizer facing the whole field of sound and the whole field of time".