



The course is an introduction to the study of architecture and climate offered to undergrads at any level. It mixes insights from the history of architecture and urban design with a hands-on, studio approach to experimental pedagogy to engage students in discourses of multi-species thinking, ecological collapse, and making narratives for architectural proposals.

This fotonovela project occurs early in the course, prompting students to learn about the interactions between architecture and ecology through a close investigation of campus architecture, flora and fauna. The emphasis is on using the fotonovela as a tool for creating a narrative of questions.

After carrying out spatial ethnographies on campus to identify the overlaps that interest them, students use physical fotonovela frames to enact and photograph the 3 scenes of their story. This project emphasizes a do-it-yourself approach, aside from the campus printer, the only tools students are afforded is their camera phone, paper and a pen. Students then print these out and mount on the wall for a studio walk-through and critique session.

In teams of 3, students carry out the following steps:

1. Identify: 1 plant, 1 animal and 1 building on campus by carrying out a spatial ethnography, considering how elements overlap and/or interact (45-minutes class time).
2. Create a triptych that helps to explore them (15 minutes class time + homework).
3. Draw up a 3-frame storyboard to explain (homework).
4. Use your physical frames to narrate the story and photograph the scenes (in class).
5. Print out and mount in classroom for critique session.

This brief emphasizes the art of noticing, students must pay careful attention to the following:

- Names of materials, paint, process of buildings, erosion, wear and tear.
- Concrete? Terracotta? Can you trace where the materials are sourced?
- What are the proper names of trees and birds, what are their local names?
- A creative analysis of the interaction between plants and buildings
- Can you identify additional aspects that affect your overlap? What kind of shade is produced? What is the wind direction? What do you smell at different times of day?

