

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

On the night of November 9th, 2016, the world shuddered and all became quiet as much of what we had taken for granted was suddenly suspended into jeopardy. Through a series of meetings discussing the potential direction for the student magazine in light of current events, we’ve arrived at this: a monthly publication of student work, which is not necessarily limited to just academic pursuits but begins to give a voice to the student body.

With the emergence of the new political climate and where it is more important than ever to speak and be heard, *Informality* is here as a monthly platform carrying out the voices of the student body - informed, empowered, and acting.

For the month of February, we reached out to Spitzer School of Architecture’s student body and asked for contributions in response to recent events - which we have themed “**Anarchy.**”

Thank you for picking up this month’s edition of *Informality*, and hopefully you and your work will join us for next month’s release, themed “**Intersect.**” For more information on how to submit work, both thematically related and not, please see the bottom of the opposite side of this publication.

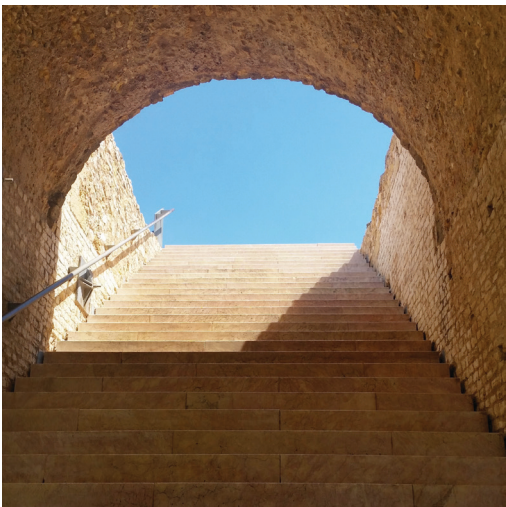
Sincerely,  
Kaitlin Faherty  
Samantha Ong

BABBIE DUNNINGTON

on her experience at Trump’s inauguration in Washington DC

The sun is rising  
At the inauguration ceremony of Trump.  
Police complimenting red hats, white faces  
Then an island speaking out—indigenous, brown, black, rising in the sea of red, all under the authority of the ceremony.  
security ensures that injustice remains safe  
Rape. Exploitation. Sexism. Racism. All protected with guns and police.  
Our fruit is taken from us at the door lest we throw one against a tyrant.  
A man with huge muscles confronts the women I’m with. People force us, looking up at him, to be the ones to back down. Surrendering to him. We must be nonviolent. Not him  
Nonviolence is not peace. As I leave the check points, a man grabs me.  
This is normal but normal is not safe.

A moving mass of black, like a school of fish swimming in the river of D.C. streets.  
Acoustic oasis in a spiritual desert of complacency and fear.  
I feel the safety of the black bloc’s world in which people are respected more than profit organized around slow hidden violence.  
D.C. has made the mistake of filling street tree pits with stones the size of clenched fists.  
They are all in black. Waterfalls of glass.  
Rocks through Wells Fargo windows.  
Fists through the cheekbones of white supremacists.  
A hundred detained by police for breaking corporate windows.  
How many detained for broken families, broken land?  
We will shatter a world that allows greed to steal health and happiness  
We know history, we imagine the future. We are not afraid.  
The limousines must burn.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERNADETTE MCCRANN, TAKEN IN BARCELONA (2016)

1 PLANET 1 RACE

Dear Spitzer School of Architecture Students:

The election results from last week continue to plague us with exhaustion and empty hearts. Burdened already by heavy work loads from school, the frightful predictions of Trump’s presidency can be paralyzing. As we anxiously await, some distract themselves with work, while others are already overwhelmed with worry as the fate of their future has been tossed into the air.

**CREATE! COLLABORATE! EDUCATE!**

In reaction to the inaction of faculty and staff at SSA, the M.Arch 2nd-Year Graduate students have joined together to stand alongside you. Together we understand the very real threats many of you are facing. Whether you’re an undocumented immigrant, woman, Black, Latinx, Muslim, LGBTQ+, or anyone else who feels threatened, we offer you our unconditional support.

We cannot control the circumstances we encounter on our way to school on the streets and subways. We can, however, foster an environment from within this building to be inclusive and respectful of our diversity, always ready to defend our community and protect our democracy. From this day forth, we banish all forms of alienation, victimization, marginalization, stigmatization, and intimidation in this building.

This is not a neutral space. This is a safe space.

We do not support bigotry, misogyny, racism, sexism, xenophobia, or homophobia.  
We do not support Trump, his administration, and their repulsive rhetoric.  
We do not support Robert Ivy’s pledge of allegiance to Trump on behalf of all architects.  
We do not support the dismantling of DACA.

We have given SSA our blood, our sweat, and our tears. This is our building.  
This is our community. This is our safe space.

To any student who is suffering: Find us. Talk with us. Be with us.

We will endure and persevere with you.

We refuse to be silent. We refuse to be neutral. We refuse to be tolerant.

We are your allies. We are your comrades. We stand beside you in solidarity.

— Architecture Students Against the Presidency

ASAP

Architecture Students Against the Presidency

LOVE

Look

PLUR

NEVER HIDE

EXIST

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER!

UNDOCUMENTED, UNAFRAID, UNAPOLOGETIC

SAME SPECIES SAME RESPECT

my casa es tu casa

HARMONY

FREE THE NIPPLE

WAKE UP  
BY ZARA Z. TAMTON

There is a dim light  
peeking out through the crack  
of a beaten down wooden door  
boarded up by scraps of warped ply  
covered by sprawling graffiti.

It’s blinding!  
in the middle of the night  
calling you calling you  
Wake up! Wake up!

Crawl out of bed drowsy  
rubbing your eyes  
wondering wondering  
where we are  
in this sea of darkness.

Surrounded  
out in the streets  
Shouting Shouting  
not alone.

Here we stand  
drawn to the light  
Charging Charging  
forward never back  
through the shadows  
searching for the source  
Rising Rising  
until we all feel  
what we cannot see  
but undoubtedly know is there  
calling calling  
Wake up.  
Wake up.

LEFT: ASAP LETTER TO THE STUDENTS



# Anarchy

## ANARCHY

# Anarchy

## ANARCHY

“ the peaceful defiance of the rules and parties perceived to be in power.

JULIA LU



ANONYMOUS M. ARCH II STUDENT(S)

A special thank you to our March contributors, in no particular order:

Babbie Dunnington  
Julia Lu  
Benjamin Akhavan  
Zara Z Tamton  
Robynne Heymanns  
Eleni Christoforides  
ASAP  
Anonymous M. Arch II student(s)

To submit for next month’s edition, email us with your work at:  
informalitymagazine@gmail.com  
The final day for April’s edition is **March 26th**.

Thank you for reading.

## ANARCHITECTURE

### BY BENJAMIN AKHAVAN

I don’t break the rules. If you ask me to record a lecture, I won’t do it without asking the professor first. I won’t come to class late. I will not submit a paper past the deadline. Even though everyone says (without knowing that it’s commonly attributed to Douglas MacArthur), rules are meant to be broken, I will show up to all the Sciame lectures on Thursday nights. Isn’t “broken” an amusing word to use when describing the disregard of rules? We break, violate, defy, and infringe the rules: only hostile terms. Most people forget the end of MacArthur’s quote: rules “are too often for the lazy to hide behind.” If we followed the “rules,” we would still be living in caves.

I am not an anarchist. But architecture - the convergence of design, engineering, and all other subjects – inherently craves to be defied. It is an idiosyncratic subject which honors and historicizes shifts in meaning. Think of the relationship between classicism and mannerism or the international style and post-modernism. Studio is about breaking the rules, the mold, the expected, to produce creative and original ideas. To create new meaning – unless I’d like to be a glorified CAD monkey – I’m going to have to explore beyond the boundaries of what the rules dictate. I’m going to have to become an anarchist.

Maybe by experimenting with the act of anarchy, in an organized fashion – even on the smallest of scales – I will be able to channel the same rebellion that Michelangelo or Robert Venturi radiated. Naturally, I was going to submit this article on time, but I’m going to submit it late, as my little form of rebellion. (Post-note: Awkward. The deadline to submit this article was postponed, so that didn’t work out...)

Wait. If anarchy is necessary to create meaningful architecture, then isn’t breaking the rules just following them? In that case - phew! - I don’t need to practice anarchy to be an architect.

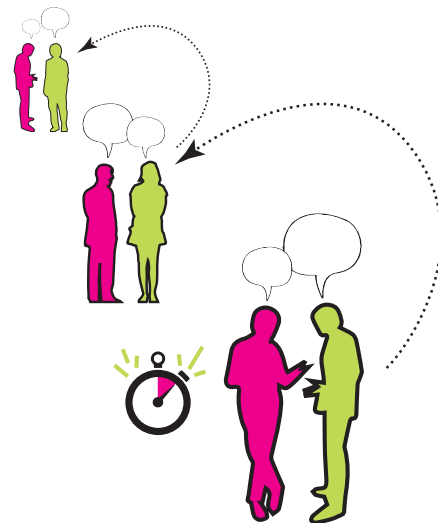
## SPEED-CRITS

### A PROPOSAL

*Below is an excerpt from our Advanced Option Studio Findings, you can find the whole thing on our tumblr: <http://informalitymagazine.tumblr.com>*

The inter-studio Speed-Critique is modeled off of a practiced used in the Columbia GSAPP program between M.Arch I and Advanced Architectural Design (AAD) students. Each week, a different pairing of two different studios is made, and a faculty member is present to moderate.

Each student from the two studios is asked to bring in-progress drawings (sketches, diagrams, red-lined drawings, developing presentations) and to present it to other students from the alternate studio. This allows each student 2.5 minutes to explain the research and design they are developing to several others who are not focused on the same thing. After 2.5 minutes, the roles switch. The process repeats every 5 minutes.



Feral plants reclaiming an intermodal shipping container terminal in Staten Island

**IF ANARCHY IS: A STATE OF DISORDER DUE TO ABSENCE OR NONRECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY** THEN FERAL LANDSCAPES, THE SPACES RECLAIMED FROM INDUSTRY BY FLORA, ARE THE POSTER CHILD. ROB HOLMES DEFINES THESE URBAN ECOLOGICAL ANOMALIES AS ‘LANDSCAPES MADE BUT BEYOND CONTROL.’ PLANT COMMUNITIES COMPRISING THESE HALF WILD, HALF INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPES RESIST BY DESIGN. THEY SELF-SEED THE CRACKS AND CREVASSES IN CONCRETE AND CREATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES. THESE PLANTS, THAT **KNOW NO POLITICAL BOUNDARIES** AND REACH, STRETCH, FLOWER THROUGH THE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS WE PUT DOWN THEN ABANDON INSPIRE A NEW LEVEL OF RESISTANCE.

AS THESE ANARCHIST PLANTS GROW THEY STORE OR DESTABILIZE TOXIC RESIDUE AND HEAVY METALS, CREATE HABITAT, STABILIZE SOIL AND RESTORE PERMEABILITY. AS ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE, APPRECIATE AND ADVOCATE FOR FERAL LANDSCAPES AS WE STRIVE TOWARD **INCLUSIVE, JUST, SUSTAINABLE CITIES** AND RESIST IRRESPONSIBLE, INTOLERANT POLICY.

ROBYNNE HEYMANNS

## ANARCHY

### BY ELENI CHRISTOFORIDES

Anarchy.  
No rules, hanging  
over  
your head  
absence of entitlement,  
no one to  
oblige  
No shadows lurking  
to catch your  
every  
stride  
Self Prescribed  
Respect.  
Consideration.  
Pride.  
when You become  
Responsible.  
To Contribute to your tribe  
this will be  
the movement  
of internal  
growth.  
when society’s focus is  
Mending.  
Each Individual’s  
gapping  
hole.