

ARCH UN3312
SPECIAL TOPICS**ENVIRONMENTS FOR INCLUSION**

Class time: M/W 6:00pm – 7:25 pm / Location: TBD

Professor: Irina Verona / iverona@barnard.edu

Olalekan Jeyifous, *Plant Seeds Grow Blessings* (2020)

The interlinked crises of climate, justice, and health continue to disproportionately threaten vulnerable and marginalized communities. Yet to date, most policy and planning efforts continue to privilege those with power, privilege, and ability, and to reinforce multiple planes of oppression and exclusion. Can the magnitude of our current predicament serve as a call to action for radical change? As we weigh our next steps, can we reinvent the ways we construct space, place, and identity – so that we can design for the inclusion of the broadest number of people?

This course examines the relationship between design, space, and practices of inclusion. We will reframe sustainability as the intersection of technological performance, on the one hand, with user experience and agency, on the other. Historical and contemporary examples will provide the foundations for new ways of thinking about architecture in terms of sensory choice rather than simply function or efficiency. Through case studies and material experiments, we will define and design environments for inclusion as spaces where different identities, abilities and possibilities can thrive.

The class will unfold in two parts:

1 – Entanglements: Through readings and research, we will study examples that redraw the line between nature and technology, organic and digital, human and nonhuman. Students will become familiar with texts, codes, and interventions across multiple scales and across several key historical moments. We will think critically about existing concepts and develop a common language.

2 – Sensory Environments: Through observation and documentation, we will undertake a sensory audit of selected (existing) environments on campus. We will record ways in which physical parameters enable (or disable) practices of inclusion and choice. With the Design Center as a resource, we will then create three-dimensional material interventions that recalibrate existing relationships.