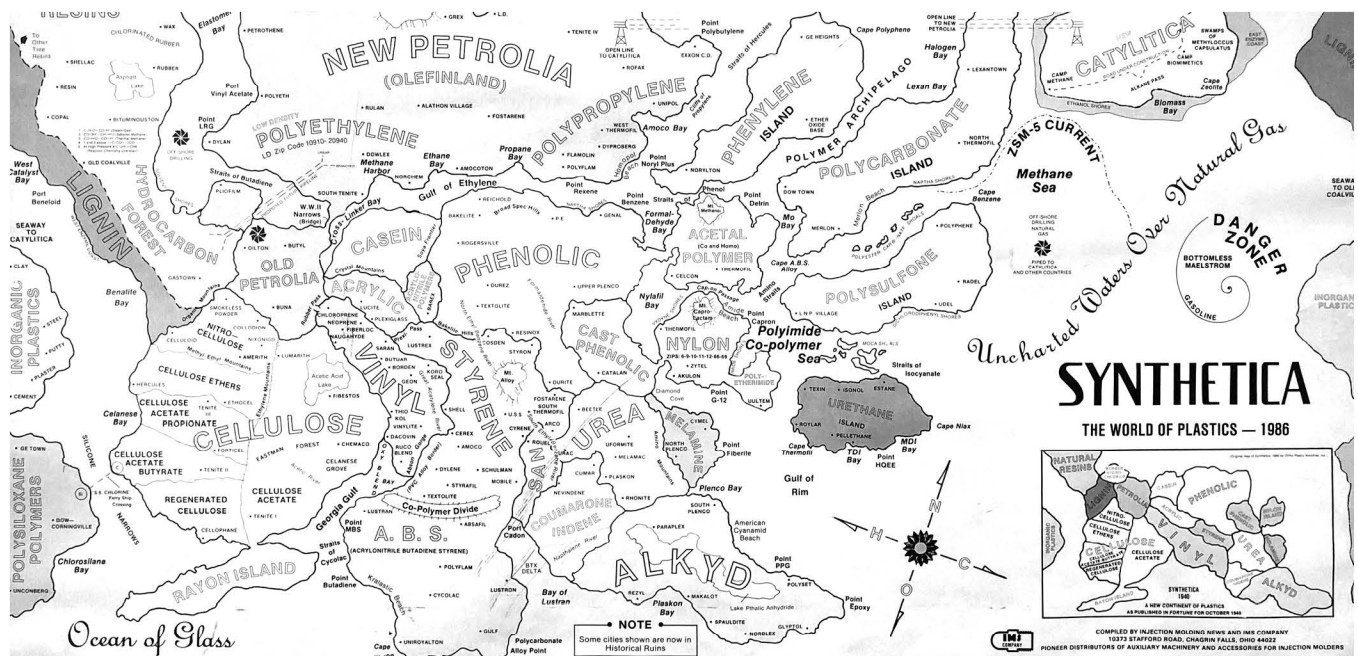


MADE OF — PLASTIC

Spring 2021 — ARCH 4050/6306
TH — 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
Instructor — David Costanza
Format — Online



OVERVIEW

This seminar seeks to unpack, document, and project the world of plastics as they relate to the discipline of Architecture, specifically how plastics can be used as a primary building material. In doing so, we will attempt to reframe the conversation around plastic from a cheap, weak, and disposable material, to a valuable, finite resource, with unparalleled properties. The shift from single-use to recyclable plastics, and from synthetic—nonrenewable—to bio-plastics—renewable—position plastics as not only impervious, durable, and affordable, but now also sustainable. Students will research plastic objects and systems through the lenses of materiality, manufacturing, and structure and will reimagine those systems in an architectural context through a full-scale prototype.

OBJECTIVE

The broader pedagogical ambition is to challenge contemporary uses of plastics and to advance inventive approaches in plastic manufacturing. In doing so, students will gain an understanding of the role of plastics in the discipline of architecture. More broadly, the course addresses the connections between architectural ideas and technologies by using a research thesis as a methodological device to approach design. Plastics will be explored as an aesthetic, cultural, and technological material. A focus will be placed on the manufacturing process and the way in which the technologies of production both facilitate and limit the applications of plastics in architecture. Finally, students will interpret their findings and translate them into projective design strategies.