Fall 2016

Rethinking "Stuff"

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rethinking 'stuff'

design thesis
jonathan anthony

advisor: daniele profeta
groupius wrote a book on grain silos, le corbusier a book on aeroplanes and charlotte perriant - it was said- brought a new object to the office every morning; but in the fifties we collected ads - peter & alison smithson

... but today we collect everything - sylvia lavin,

... but today we store everything - jon anthony, re-thinking stuff
'rethinking stuff'

design thesis
2016-2017
jonathan anthony

syracuse university
school of architecture

main advisor:
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secondary advisors
professor jonathan louie
professor ted brown
re-thinking stuff is a manifesto for the study of material culture and a new way of looking at the ‘stuff’ that surrounds us and makes up so much of our social and personal life.

this thesis contends it is time to acknowledge and confront the lack of attention to how we store our stuff - most importantly what are the architectural effects of rethinking stuff in storage.
we live in a time where as architectural theorist sylvia lavin mentions ‘we collect everything’. cabinets of curiosities, the sir john soane museum, and the television series hoarders, hoarding: buried alive remind us of our material obsession. while we have embraced a a material culture, we’ve also quickly come to realize our stuff is more than we can possibly handle or like at one given time. so our houses adapt and supply us with more storage space. storage centers populate both urban and suburban areas. google drive, dropbox, pinterest, tumblr and ‘the cloud’ provide us with endless platforms to store our digital collections. data centers and digital farms become the architectural result of our digital hoarding. as our methods of storing grow, adapt, die and live- our storage environments especially the big box storage facility tend to not respond to the minutia of stuff and the effects of stuff in the everyday. If we have learned anything from the relationship of stuff, owner and their environment it is that it is fundamentally ‘zeitgeistic’ – reflecting dominant set of relationships, ideals and attitudes during a particular time period. this thesis argues that today stuff is increasingly challenging notions of property, ritual, temporality, accessibility and materiality.
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stuff

noun
1. matter, material, articles, or activities of a specified or indeterminate kind that are being referred to, indicated, or implied.

2. the basic constituents or characteristics of something or someone.

verb
1. fill (a receptacle or space) tightly with something.
why stuff?

“even though things do not at first appear architectural because they do not contribute directly to the construction or the inhabitation of the building, they set effects in motion that activate relations between bodies and objects in space, structure, the perception of space, and alter patterns of circulation and use.”

-sylvia lavin, architecture in extremis, log 18

what stuff?

stuff (physical)

junk
knick-knack
tchotchke
things
goods
trinket
souvenir
baggage
matter
rummage

stuff (digital)
matter
data
files
screenshots

stuff (abstract)

ideas
memories
information
stuff today, stuff in storage today
storage often acts as a private entity foremost interested in private ownership. Yet there seems to be an opportunity to capitalize on the fuzzy boundaries of property and ownership.

With this in mind ‘stuff is constantly re-interpreted. One man’s trash (often ‘dead storage’) is another man’s treasure. Networks, overlaps, temporary couplings, twins and triplets have the potential to be established.
time

storage facilities act as static containers that do not recognize the ever changing and accumulation of stuff that occur over time. traditional architectural responses to additional storage is to produce more static containers.
ritual

our typical storage environments often neglect other processes of stuff such as hoarding, exhibiting, collecting, archiving and accumulating. how can storage environments begin to benefit from other accepted processes of stuff?

[wunderkammer, the museum of ole worm collecting? exhibiting? storing?]  
[office of adrian phifer, open space for citizens collecting? accumulating? archiving? storing?]  
[leon ferrari collecting? hoarding? exhibiting? storing?]
storage

noun
1. the action or method of storing something for future use.

2. the retention of retrievable data on a computer or other electronic system; memory.

3. space available for storing something, especially allocated space in a warehouse.
world’s largest chest of drawers
american home as storage furniture

good will ad
digital & physical storing collide
physical storage of accumulation

physical storage of collections
little mermaid “you want thingamabobs? i’ve got twenty”

digital storage

institutional storage

infrastructural storage

‘designed’ places of storage

objects of storage
desktop storage

the storage of images

a. mac desktop organization is setup to: sort by > snap to grid

b. icon size is set at forty-four (44) by forty-four (44).

c. a matrix of sixteen (16) rows x nine (9) columns can be filled with screenshots and images.

d. one hundred and forty four (144) images can be displayed without any disturbance.

e. after one hundred and forty four (144) images have been displayed, images overlap on top of existing matrix.

f. the second layer images are justified to the right and down to allow bottom layer to read through.

g. as images pile up desktop appears both organized and disorganized, legible to illegible.

h. changing the settings of the icon size, justifications and grid spacing radically changes the appearance and organization.
a. Information regardless of content is first arranged alphabetically. This information is allocated the same amount of space per item. Each item is given a title in Minion Pro Bold font size twenty-eight (28) and subtext in Brandon Grotesque font size twenty (20).

b. Nine (9) selected boxes are given numbers to highlight a succinct narrative.

c. Some boxes are layered with images, hatch marks, left blank hatch and images are monochromatic.

d. Some information is useful to the project taking a more academic tone while other information is more playful.

e. Some boxes refer to other boxes, using the words "See also" giving the viewer a variety of different prescribed circulation routes.
thesis archive.2

the collection and exhibition of information

a. information is arranged by content. content includes words that the project is interested in, readings, related presents and people. this information is allocated the same amount of space per item in the size of a square. each item is given a title in minion pro bold font size twenty (20) and subtext in brandon grotesque font size ten (10).

b. all boxes are numbered. this gives a blatant understanding of the amount of individual information.

c. each individual box gets a circle. when boxes relate based on content they are grouped via a larger circle.

d. some information is useful to the project taking a more academic tone while other information is more playful.

e. some boxes refer to other boxes, using the words ‘see also) giving the viewer a very different prescribed ‘circulation’ route.
evidence in clue
the storage of evidence

a. someone is murdered in a room, with a specific weapon.

b. players circulate on a grid to move to each room to then ask their opponents questions about the murderer, the weapon and the location of the murder. nine rooms are placed on the edges of the board. players move in between them.

c. the number on the dice you roll allows the number of tiles you can move to.

d. if someone is blocking the doorway you can not get into the room.

f. some rooms have multiple doorways

e. circulation is relatively normal except for in four rooms where you can make unreasonable jumps to another room.
resources

the collection of resources in settlers of catan

a. a topography of hexagonal pieces are put together to form a landscape. land is differentiated into four different resources that players acquire.

b. players must acquire the resources of land for the construction and ownership of roads, houses and settlements. the player with the most property wins the game.

c. players collect resources and build property by navigating the hexagonal edges.

d. roads align to hexagon edges. houses align to hexagon corners. two consecutive roads are needed before you can build a house or settlement.

e. multiple people can collect and own the same resource due to the shape of pieces and the strategy of the game. players can prohibit each other from getting the resources they might desire or need.
storage studies

documenting five different environments of storage - the honey-pot ant, the fridge, the suburban home, the storage facility, and the seed bank, the drawings begin to outline current methods of storing stuff. they also act projectively - animating the effects of stuff in their environments.

thesis 2016- 2017 're-thinking stuff'

jon anthony
honey-pot ant
stuff changes
stuff changes from being in storage to being put to use. as food is stored in the honey-pot ant it gains nutrients - 'value' during storage.

stuff is collective
all of the ants work together to create one shared storage system.
stuff takes on an identity
the honey-pot ant and the contents they store become one.
stuff goes from being stuff to Stuff.
stuff is no longer secondary but much more important.
fridge
Fridge

Fridge is divided to allow for easy separation and logical property lines

Allocated
four sections divide the fridge into storage areas

Blurred
sharing of food, exchanges, borrowing, property blurring

Network
the fridge is part of a larger network of shared storage spaces in the home
stuff is zoned
stuff is tied to issues of property. stuff often float between ownership and established property lines

stuff is collective
multiple owners share stuff
stuff is dead

stuff is no longer at its original state. Food and other items fall into disarray... stuff becomes unrecognizable. Stuff is no longer relevant to its user getting pushed to the back of the shelf and out of sight.
stuff is maintained

property zones in the fridge become blurred in the freezer. the freezer becomes a free for all where both individuality of the item and who it belongs to is blurred.

stuff is prioritized the life of other stuff first. baking soda is placed in the fridge to maintain the health of the fridge ecosystem as a whole.
\begin{itemize}
  \item stuff is borrowed
  roommate temporarily takes ownership of other roommate’s stuff
  \item stuff is inherited
  roommate gives leftover chinese food to other roommate. stuff gains a new owner.
\end{itemize}
suburban dwelling
At this point we have established a visual model of a suburban home. The existing home is comprised of several sections which will be shown in the following images:

- Attic + basement: This area is used to store accumulated or less often used items.
- Garage: This space is ideal for storing larger items or those that are less frequently accessed.
- Shed: A mini storage space that can be utilized for smaller items.
- PODS: A container adjacent to the home used for short-term storage.
- Interior storage: Spaces within the home such as closets, garages, and attics for smaller storage needs.
- Storage facility: Outdoor storage to alleviate indoor space, with facilities provided nearby.
stuff is active
stuff is in play; stuff goes from being 'stored' in the garage to being put to use. stuff goes from one storage place to another storage space.
stuff is nested
stuff lives within other stuff. stuff secretly or not so secretly fills the insides of cupboards, drawers and ottomans.

stuff blends in
stuff and its ecosystem blend together. the garage floor gets painted in a jackson pollock style that begins to allow stuff to float freely and blend in with the ground.
self storage facility
storage facility

individual pool
stuff leaves the house and put in a pool-like container

multiple 'pods'
multiple individual units grouped together

close but not together
individual owners put some in their respective containers; some owners own multiple.
stuff is individual
zones of the storage facility explicitly highlight areas where an environment and the stuff inside belong to just one owner/group of owners

stuff is isolated
stuff is compartmentalized
stuff is maintained
stuff that prioritizes the life of other stuff first. surveillance, fences, and security keeps the health of the storage ecosystem.
the Syrian government retrieved seeds from the seed bank in 2015, what was largely understood as a stagnant collection transformed into something very different.

stuff is nested

stuff is compartmentalized

84

85
projective narratives

stuff is collective, zoned and retrieved.
stuff is maintained, active, dead, concealed, appropriate, and inappropriate.
stuff blends in, nested, secondary, borrowed, inherited, and changed. stuff is blurred, flat, pseudo flat, and volumetric.

drawing from richard serra’s 1967-68 famous list of verbs - which implies generation of objects or form through action, my list of gerunds implies a generation of effects from objects (stuff). going forward, five narratives begin to question the architectural effects of when stuff is re-thought based off of animated, spatial and invisible effects.
lost & found exhibit  01/5

claire johnson a curator at the museum of modern art proposes a permanent interactive exhibition space for lost and found items in new york city
divorced empty nesters 02/5

mary lou and tom just got divorced. their three children are all in college and have left their childhood belongings at home. as mary lou and tom try to find a new home, they are confronted with the difficulty of where to put their children’s stuff, whose new home does it belong in and how important is stuff still to their children.
charlie override (charl130v3rr1d3) is about to uncover top government secrets. online, charlie is in conversation with other anonymous whistleblowers. not being able to trust anyone or any pre-made online storage site charlie begins to create his own storage drive.
living nomadically, a homeless person’s stuff is incredibly important to them. A group of homeless decide they would benefit from combining their stuff into one shared storage ecosystem.
twins 05/5

miles and felix do everything together, but also fight over everything. mile’s stuff is felix’s stuff and vice versa. their playroom has become overcrowded and the parents decide to devise a new storage system for their stuff.
room environment for review

the opportunity to use the thesis prep review as a platform to begin rethinking environments of stuff
log

this log documents the process of the thesis -- readings, conversations, images and other stuff...
I

The System of Collecting

JEAN BAUDRILLARD

Among the various meanings of the French word objet, the dictionary gives this: ‘Anything which is the cause or subject of a passion, that of personal possession, whose invested affect is in no way inferior to that of any other variety of passion. Indeed, this everyday passion often outstrips all the other kinds that sometimes reign supreme in the absence of any rival. What is characteristic of this passion is that it is tempered, diffuse, and regulative, only guess at its fundamental role in keeping the lives of the in subject or of the collectivity on an even footing, and in supporting the project of survival. In this respect, the objects in our lives, as dist the way we make use of them at a given moment, represent: much more, something profoundly related to subjectivity: for object is a resistant material body, it is also, simultaneously, a realm over which I hold sway, a thing whose meaning is g myself alone. It is all my own, the object of my passion.

THE OBJECT DIVESTED OF ITS FUNCTION

The fact that I make use of a refrigerator in order to freeze that the refrigerator is defined in terms of a practical transat an object so much as a freezing mechanism. In this sense, I to possess it. Possession cannot apply to an implement, sir utilize always directs me back to the world. Rather it object once it is divested of its function and made relative this sense, all objects that are possessed submit to the s operation and participate in a mutual relationship in so refer back to the subject. They thereby constitute themselves on the basis of which the subject seeks to piece togeth personal microcosm.
Friday, November 4

Conversation w/ Professor Profeta:

- Sectional perspective of fridge sounds good.
- What is mood of residential drawing? Different layers of hierarchies? Pile-static?
- Are drawings too descriptive? Add second level of information.

Choose direction - interested in types of storage being different (heirarchies) (1) or equal - 'mat-ness' - flatness (2) or pseudo flatness (3)

- Is drawing about retrieval, cleanliness?
- Order v. chaos
- Mat flowing - clue like connections?
- Some sort of color archival?
- Levels of security
- Visit a storage facility

Put in effort into fridge drawing - screws, crumbles

Tuesday, November 8

Conversation w/ Professor Profeta:

- Include crumbles/rotten food - 'one man's trash is another man's treasure in fridge drawings
- Representation in house/fridge should be similar
- Stuff should read more. Put efforts into two drawings, make storage center as quick as possible so panel knows this is not a residential project

- Storage facility drawing should also be vertical
- Adjust fridge opening
- Notate more heavily, give narrative

Later on items can be projected onto drawing, curate environment in presentation.
Thursday, November 10

Thesis Review Two: Conversation w/ Professors Profeta, Brown + Louie

Professor Brown- questions attention to individual objects in drawings; mentions I seem most interested in fridge. Interested in both flatness of stuff but also volumetric. Mentions drawings may begin to reflect notions of temporal effects. Stuff is also about accumulation- stuff is about residue and not always about collecting. Fridge is interesting because it is apart of the everyday. Day to day- ritual should be embedded in drawings. Each scale has positive and negative things you can learn from. Not just storage facility is all bad.

Professor Louie - seems like a power of 10 is going on. Where do you stop? Perhaps the end goal of the thesis is not a storage facility. Mentions Joseph Cornell boxes and Gursky’s 99 cent store. Using stuff as both noun and a verb. Begin to define my interest/definition.

Professor Profeta - doesn’t see a problem with using the storage facility as an exercise for the bigger picture. Thinks project will still be effective if experience is embedded in presentation- room filled with stuff--
thesis 2016-2017: 're-thinking stuff'

- in practice of captured data... for another
  - temporal link to...'
  - spatial
  - property

- story. facility -> house -> refrigerant
  - how... how... and...'
  - supply
  - collection
  - handling
  - exhibiting
  - archiving

- what... archival stato... does anything on their
  - property...
  - divide
  - allocate
  - blur

Problem of scale [pair of it ... role]
- objects or... of objects. and its relationship
  - see an... current... change in...'
  - invisible infrastructure/events
  - ...ueral box
  - thematic
  - scientific system
friday november 18
conversation w/ professor profeta,
sketch out room for final thesis/final prep room
will there be models? performance? what do i need? technically? do i need 402? this will help with to do list
*not making a building but an ecosystem
project is not about efficiency of stuff
possible narrative for project in the future
narrative was too linear in verbal presentation - needs to reach conclusions quicker. possibly re-write verbal prep presentation
drawings
need to be taken to one more step graphically
tone? texture? projection?
proposed 2 more drawings (xs, xl)
these scales are useful all as they give ways of storage that we are not inherently used to
xs - ant storage - body of ant - community
xl - seed bank - who is it stored for - under what property - storing property - collection for preservation

these drawings should link to other drawings
these drawings should give more than what the other drawings are doing
make website, learn with dabota
adobe muse
get the work out there - how do i position my project in world

thursday, december 1
conversation w/ professor profeta,
seed bank drawing
property Lines - retrieval
cutting through geology
exhibition thesis prep room
why carpet? what connotation does the carpet conjure? -- residential space? understand room as storage
areas of exhibition v. areas of unconcentrated // typical carpets as sanitized area vs. more didactic?
boxes for typical storage

extract ideas from drawings
material, temporal, accessibility, property boundaries
website and room should pull from these findings
projective steps forward, dry run
as an intervention where do i come in
this is all productive for me because im moving in this direction...
Rem Koolhaas / Hal Foster

"space-junk is the human debris that litters the universe junk-space leaves on the planet."

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Are We Collecting the "Right Stuff"?

by CAROLYN HEALD

We have called this article "Are we Collecting the Right Stuff" because it is not easy to answer two seemingly related questions: Where do we collect information that is useful, and further in the world of databases and automated access to perform more daily tasks? Information is coming from a wide variety of sources, and with the current state of computer technology and visualization, the content is changing rapidly and is becoming even more ephemeral. This suggests that we must continue to immerse ourselves in the world of databases and automated access to perform more daily tasks. Information is coming from a wide variety of sources, and with the current state of computer technology and visualization, the content is changing rapidly and is becoming even more ephemeral. This suggests that we must continue to immerse ourselves in the world of databases and automated access to perform more daily tasks.

Are we as librarians in the information business or the artifact business? If so, is it a good thing to have more information on our hands? Does it help us to improve our organizational efficiency? These questions need to be answered carefully.
Final Thesis Prep Review - Fall 2016

Student: Anthony, Jonathan
UG
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016
Room: 402

Perspectives:

[Writing]
Napoleon: How do you piece them in the 21st century. Stuff is... something.
Is there a new view of stuff?

outside of science

Stuff is ornate but stuff is oars somewhere.

Finkel: Is the most exquisite ever

Review: French - Finkel.
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<td>Brown, Ted</td>
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</table>
| *Remember to upload*

- vibrant matter J. Bennett, Duke material obsession
- digital milieu
- the animation & tone of life by virtue of the stuff animate or what scope will be most productive?
- lost & found
- new storage system: does problem
- flooding?

- stuff
- found: solutionary last & found

- Hans Hollein "architec" is easy to
- vol & work
- love the scenario!!!
- look for examples with & re: people don't know who
ARC 505 THESIS PREP DOCUMENT

Advisor Approval for Submission Form

Beginning in Fall 2016 there will be an additional requirement for the submission of Documents. For every project (individual or team), the thesis prep student(s) must have an Advisor’s signature on, and submit to Carol Pettinelli, a hard copy of this completed form by the deadline for submission of the Thesis Document.

As stated in the syllabus:

“A final version of the Thesis Prep Document that incorporates the Committee’s suggested Final Review and has been approved by the Advisor must be uploaded to the School archive December 19 in order for the student’s earned grade (which is determined by the Committee at final Thesis Prep Review) to be posted with the registrar. A grade of “F” will be posted if no Thesis Prep Document is uploaded to the archive by the deadline.”

________________________________________________________

Student(s)’ Name(s) Jonathan Paul Anthony

Advisor’s Name Daniele Profeta

I have reviewed the final version of the Thesis Prep Document (PDF) to be submitted by the named student(s) and approve it as meeting the requirements for thorough documentation of work, ambitions, critical development and outcome of the semester’s work at the final review.

Advisor’s Signature __________________________ Date __12__