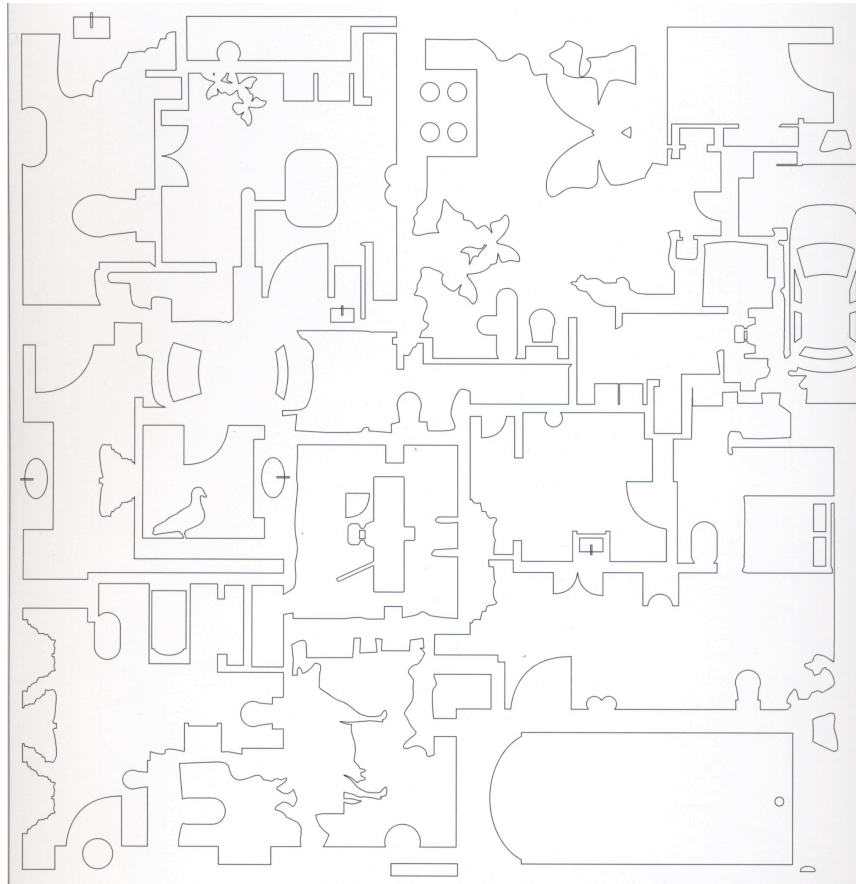


SPATIAL NARRATIVES

WINTER 2019/ Arch 409/509

Fridays 8:30-11:30am

Instructor: Keith Mitnick



Razieh Ghorbani, 2012

This seminar will focus upon ways through which architecture converts abstract cultural notions about the world into spatial orderings. We will examine how maps become territories, and explore architecture's role in negotiating contradictions between the concepts that we use to define the physical world and the way we experience it through our senses. Throughout the semester, we will study the narrative and symbolic aspects of spatial relations (as conveyed through maps, plans, diagrams, and other representations), and question the terms and techniques with which architectural space embodies different views, values, and cultural mythologies. We will pay close attention to the relationship between the representational logic according to which space relations are determined and their translation into physical form, and experiment with techniques for making things that adhere to different types of conceptual and visual logic simultaneously.

The perceived schism between spatial concepts and spatial experience has long been a subject of study not only by architects, but also philosophers, geographers, visual artists and cultural historians. In the first part of this course, we will read excerpts of texts written by non-architectural theorists, including Hanna Arendt, Michel Foucault, and Henri Lefebvre, who examine the experiential implications of abstract notions about space, as well as writings by such architectural specialists such as Beatriz Colomina, Robin Evans, and Bernard Tschumi, who explore the theoretical aspects of physical space. In addition, we will examine other forms of narrative media in which the conceptual and experiential natures of space have been explored.