

# The House as a Political

4/584 Design Studio  
MWF 1:00-4:50pm  
Instructor: Menna Agha

## Studio Rational

During this studio, we will investigate the house as a site of resistance and political contestation, and re-envisage the house beyond its heteronormative function. We will learn from Subaltern spatial strategies such as squatters and LGBTQ houses as well as many designs by feminist architects, all of which have offered valuable lessons on the recalculation of the house as a typology. We will also explore together what a House means outside eurocentric categories of family, gender, and space.

## Studio Goal

The goal of this studio has two folds, conceptual modelling and spatial design. Our end product will be an architectural project represented using tools such as drawing, modelling, and renders in addition to a short text of the concept. We will agree as a community of a budget per project to assure this will be a low-cost endeavour.

## Studio Intention

This studio intends to position the architect in service of the margin. The students will be required to commit to an issue and intentionally design a complex spatial structure in the service of a marginal group. This studio is intended for the critical, the activist, and the rebellious; those who are willing to suspend their sovereignty and learn from the strategies of the margin, Nevertheless, it is NOT for those who wish to be heroes.

## Studio activities

Students will collaborate in groups of three; each group will be tasked with identifying a real location that will be able to incubate a complex architectural design in the service of 40 to 60 people. The rhythm of this studio will be defined as a combination of storytelling circles, collective discussions and in-studio drafting.



A traditional squatter settlement in Manila  
Photo by Mr. Wood / Flickr