The way in which one person sees is not universal, neither are the ways in which a certain culture constructs its visual cues. The title of this course is borrowed from the seminal book and television series by John Berger, who examines art and induces a shift in the way we see art. During our course, we will try and expand our visualization skills by learning about other ways of seeing.

This course will focus on the visual representation of architecture, especially on the different possible ways in which space is visually represented. We will predominantly focus on the social, cultural, and political implications of visual representation. But we will learn how to consciously, and ethically use different modes of representation in the analysis and production of architecture.

This class will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays, we will be introduced to a different concept of visual representation and explore its utilities, poetics, and historical roots. On Thursday, we will have an exercise that critically deals with that concept in the context of spatial production. The last three weeks of this course will be dedicated to the re-seeing project, in which groups of three students will purposefully re-see or re-imagine an existing space.

Weekly exercises will require simple, low-cost materials like yarn, your existing laptops, and drafting papers. For the final re-seeing project, the student’s medium of choice is welcomed in this class, given that we are all committed to keeping the cost of this class low. Students are free to choose manual drawing, digital renders, literary expressions, or a combination of media.

Instructor: Menna Agha