This studio takes an inter-disciplinary approach and works on spaces for, and inspired by, theatrical performance. The studio focuses on experience, temporality, and cultural identity. To engage with architecture as the settings where experience takes place, we will draw from theater, which focuses on experience in one of its purest forms. We engage with theater forms from minority where performance is a form through which cultural specificities as well as commonalities are expressed, performed, experienced, and negotiated. Focusing on experience and performance also means that instead of seeing architecture as a permanent structure, we will explore its impermanence. We will look at both the built space and participants as components of momentary assemblages.

Working in collaboration with theatre students, you will analyze and interpret a minority theatre forms and design three interpretations, gradually increasing the level of abstraction: 1) a stage/setting for the specific performance; 2) an alternative space (like moving theatre or exhibition piece) for the same performance; 3) a public space based on your interpretation of that performance.

Throughout the term, we will combine design explorations with reading, discussion, case study, and analyses. Each group will develop a unique approach and a set of design strategies, principles, and ideas to guide their design. This studio works in collaboration with TA 4/572; Minority Theatre Forms (Professor Michael Najjar), which studies plays and performances from some of the rich communities that comprise the American theatre including African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latinx, Middle Eastern Americans, and Native Americans.