CONVERSATIONS ON PLACE, PLACELESSNESS, AND PRODUCTION OF SPACE
IARC 407 / 507  TTH  14:00 - 15:20  WINTER 2022  EUGENE  SAMI CHOHAH

Spaces we build do not float in a vacuum. They instead exist at the intersection of multiple contextual realities, ranging between human and natural, tangible and intangible. Together, these realities define place, or simply an area or region of the world that we may or may not inhabit and engage with. Depending on location and variations in such realities, places can be either similar or entirely different. In either case, they allow us to construct meaning and to make sense of where we are and perhaps who we are.

The relationship between built space and place is, however, far more complex and requires deeper deliberation. After all, designed space itself is a tangible human reality, capable of influencing place, and with it our ability to construct meaning in or through it.

Through select readings on the many interpretations of regionalism, coupled with relevant case studies and assignments, this seminar dwells on the complexity of this relationship, expanding on the role and our reading of place in the production of space. In an ever-increasing flow of building trends, techniques and technologies, it questions the insensitive, acontextual and image-obsessed approaches to form-making, and instead pushes for deeper interconnections between form and specificities of place – not for the sake of it, but for the purpose of resisting homogeneity, celebrating diversity, fostering feelings of belonging, and promoting actual sustainability. Form is found in place, not imposed on it - I argue.