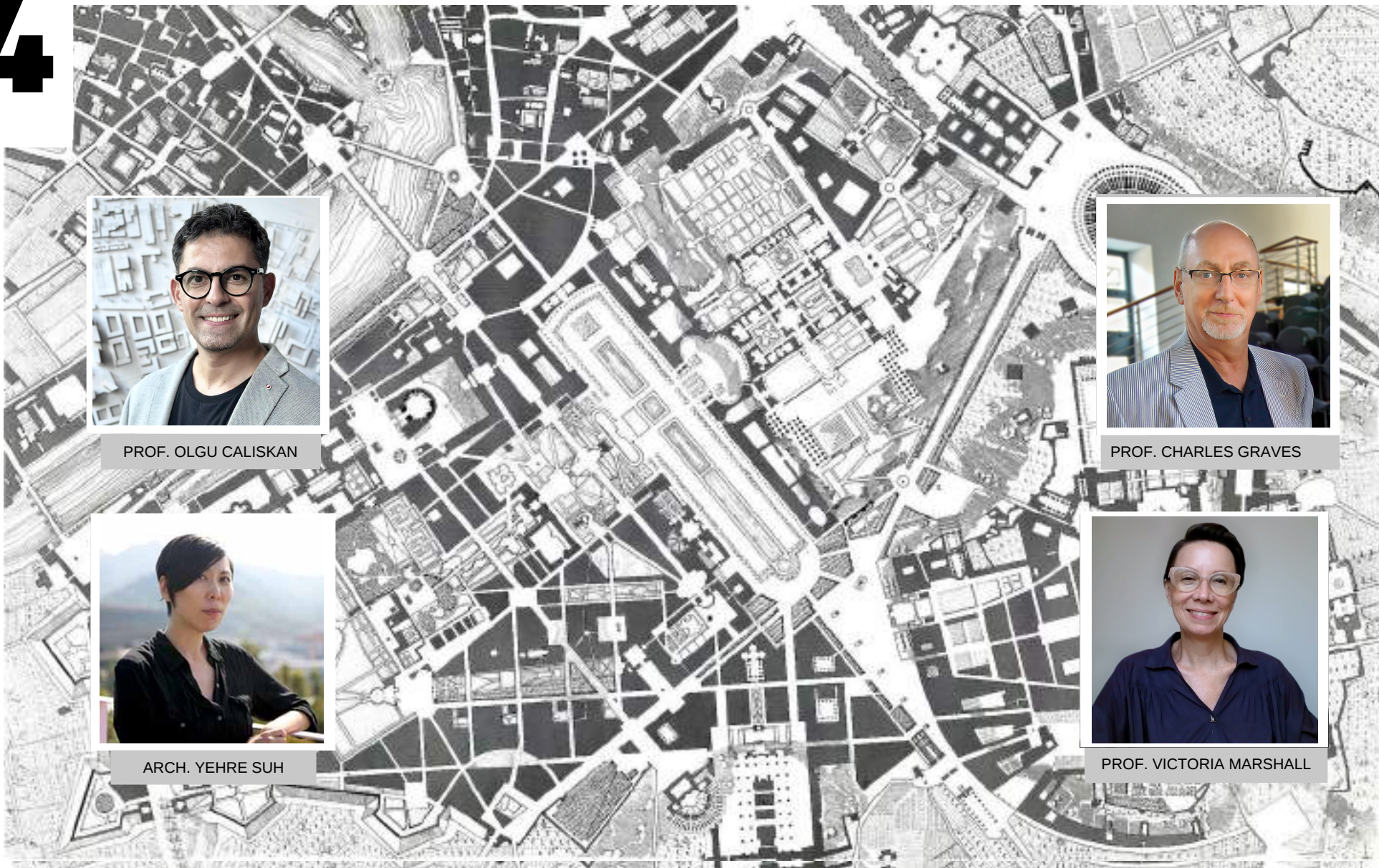


Contextualism

Collage City and Beyond

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The GUDesign Thematic Nodes Seminars presents:

November 17th 2025
8:30 AM EDT
2:30 PM CET (Italy)
3:30PM (Turkey)
8:30PM (Singapore)

Meeting Link

<https://uniroma1.zoom.us/j/87100009739>

Tracing the transnational migration of Rowe's contextual and collage ideas, especially in contemporary urban design.

The initial Contextualism, Collage City and Beyond seminar investigated Colin Rowe's mid-twentieth century role in approaching Sitte's 1890's reaction to Von Forsters' 1860 imperial design for Vienna Ringstrasse. Rowe's critical appropriation paved the way for many later iterations. Almost all the speakers in the first seminar were students of Rowe's studio. The second seminar investigated the diffusion of Rowe's pedagogy into a wider network, with young speakers from Asia and Latin America. Codes shifted to create a greatly more fragmented and flexible collage city inclusive of self-built, informal urbanism. The third seminar returned to Sitte's community arguments to study contextualism and collage at the Micro-Urban level in Asia when COVID accelerated the metacity model.

The fourth seminar, again returns to Rowe and Sitte but examines the generative rules for making meta-city context in the information age. The age of blogs, platforms and networks - with its change in mapping and representational technologies - has brought about a new scale that expands into peripheral landscapes. Speakers will look at the Rowe and Ungers' studios in terms of fabrication of fabric, the role of landscape, new mapping and communication methods creating a new form of context and community.

Welcome Address:

Prof. Marichela Sepe, DICEA-Sapienza Università di Roma, GUDesign Coordinator

Chair:

Prof. David Grahame Shane, Columbia University NY

Discussant:

Prof. Tong Ming, South East University Nanjing (SEU)

Speakers:

Prof. Olgu Caliskan

LEARNING FROM COLIN ROWE: CONTEXTURALIST METHODOLOGY FOR URBAN FABRICATION

With his doctoral degree in urbanism at TU Delft, he has lectured and instructed at METU Faculty of Architecture, as a professor of urban design and morphology and served as a visiting professor at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning in the USA. In the body of TEPAV (The Economic Research Foundation of Turkey), he consulted for the strategic vision project for the Gaza urban strip, and authored the Urban Design Master Plan of 'Ankara Technology Base' in 2024. With Colin Rowe's contextualist approach, his current paper presents a comprehensive review of the design studies supervised by C. Rowe at Cornell, comprising 118 projects in total. In the presentation he aims to reveal the underlying morphological strategies for fabricating typo-morphologically diverse and coherent urban forms by design.

Architect Yehre Suh

ROWE X UNGERS STUDIO EXHIBITION: CORNELL

Principal of Urban Terrains Lab, Ar.Yehre Suh was one of three invited architects for the 2023 Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion's exhibition and a participating artist for the 2014 Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion's 'Crow's Eye View' exhibition which won the Golden Lion award. While she was Assistant Professor of Urban Design at Seoul National University, Graduate School of Environmental Studies 2014-19, she was a member of the City of Seoul Architecture Policy Committee 2016-18 and the curator of Asia Urbanism at the Asia Culture Center in Gwangju, Korea 2015-16. Her talk will focus on the pedagogical and disciplinary questions and contexts that initiated the research, curation and designing of the 'Rowe X Ungers: Untold Collaborations on the City' exhibition in 2010 at Cornell.

Prof. Charles Graves

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT THAT FORMED COLIN ROWE'S URBAN DESIGN STUDIO: FALL 1977 - SPRING 1978

With a Masters of Architecture at Cornell University in 1979, Prof. Graves practiced architecture in New York City until 1985, after which he began his teaching career at the ETH Zürich. In 2018, Graves retired from teaching at Kent State University and is presently Professor Emeritus. In this presentation he plans on discussing the projects Colin Rowe issued in his Urban Design studio during the academic years of 1977-1979, and the importance to realize the context of all the elements influencing both the process and the product. Occurring both within and around the Cornell campus, Prof. Charles Graves will end the session following exercises given during his years spent at Cornell in Colin Rowe's studio.

Prof. Victoria Marshall

BECOMING URBAN? PERIURBAN, POST-RURAL AND RURAL MANIFESTATION

Senior Lecturer at the National University of Singapore, Prof. Marshall is the director of the Master of Landscape Architecture program, with her research focus on the future of urban-rural hybridity in Monsoon Asia. Her works include *Periurban Cartographies: Kolkata's urban ecologies and settled ruralities* (2024) and a co-authored book *Patch Atlas: Integrating design practices and ecological knowledge for cities as complex systems* (2019). Her presentation starts with normative thinking considering the "urban edge", the "periphery of the urban" and "becoming urban." The study involves a larger, collective and comparative project learning from multifaceted "kinds of urban" everywhere. This study extends the research into a multichannel audio-visual work, which is both an installation and a performance.

