BIO:

Edna Ledesma is an Emerging Scholar of Race & Gender in the U.S. Built Environment at the University of Texas at Austin in the School of Architecture where she teaches in the Architecture, Urban Design, and City and Regional Planning programs. She holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science from Texas A&M University, a Master of Architecture and a Master of Urban Design from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor of Environmental Design from Texas A&M University. She is a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellow.

Her research focuses on understanding the development of the smart, green, and just 21st century city, in particularly the cultural landscapes of immigrant populations, micro-economies, and their development of a new understanding of city place.
This research studies Latino vendor markets as city places through the lens of attachment. First, to understand the markets as places, the study looks at three key elements: institutional frameworks, language of place, and socioeconomic dimensions. Then, attachment is conceptualized through an understanding of dependence, networks, and acceptance.

The study examines four selected markets in two geographic county contexts, border and in-land, in California and Texas, two states with the highest percentage of Latino populations in the United States, both at 37.6% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). The border case study of San Diego County, California is paralleled with Cameron County, Texas, and the in-land Los Angeles County, California case study to Harris County, Texas.

Qualitative and quantitative, primary and secondary, data are collected and analyzed using a mixed-methods approach. Places studied include both the market grounds and city context. People studied include vendors, customers, market management representatives, and city officials.

The study found markets to be characterized as “places” beyond spaces, that are occupied by a Latino majority (94%) by customers, vendors, and management members. Additionally, it found evidence of various degrees of attachment at all four markets for both customer and vendors. Ultimately, the research presents a series of planning and design recommendations, as there is opportunity to support Latino vendor markets as 21st century U.S. city places.
CAMERON COUNTY MARKET PUBLIC-PRIVATE REDEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
In an attempt to engage the fundamental issues of design that are integral to our understanding of architecture and the built environment, this thesis investigates how spontaneous architecture can transcend political and social boundaries by acting as a catalyst in the urban environment. The act of catalyzing is exemplified in the informal sector through street markets and street vendors. And while the complexity of the current economic reality in the United States has resulted in a fragmented architectural typology, the dynamic articulation of marginalized vacant space in the urban core has become a strong player in a revival of localism.

The underpinning goal of this thesis is to develop an understanding of the significance that these catalytic engines play in the reintegration of cities still fighting to overcome the spoils of modernity. Through a revival of localism and a re-appropriation of urban energies, markets exemplify the bottom-up approach of incremental urban design powered by formation of strong micro economies.

Market case studies we visited in 6 cities in the United States: St. Louis, Missouri; Los Angeles, California; Portland, Oregon Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; and New York, New York. The case studies were used as means of deriving at potential insights to the state of the American street market. An examination of prescription of catalytic opportunities – a dynamical system that has a sensitive dependence on the initial conditions of a place – presents a series of guiding principles for successful market design.
## Case Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor Mobility Types</th>
<th>Pedestrian Traffic</th>
<th>Vendor Service Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serial</td>
<td>Figure-ground</td>
<td>Street grid</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Park space</td>
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<td>Vendor placement</td>
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<td>Vendor type</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Vacant land</td>
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<td>Opportunity for growth</td>
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### Sites

- **Belle Heights, Los Angeles, California**
- **Millennium Park, Los Angeles, California**
- **Echo Park, Los Angeles, California**
- **Farragut Square, Downtown Los Angeles, California**
- **SW 3rd Avenue and SW 10th Street, Downtown, Portland, Oregon**
- **SW 4th Avenue and SW Hall Street, Classroom, Portland, Oregon**
- **SE 12th Avenue and SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon**
- **Portland Farmers Market, SE 19th Avenue and SE Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon**

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**SITE ANALYSIS**

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06
Guiding Principles for Successful Market Design

The implications that this brings about is that streets should be designed with the recognition of the best venues of opportunity, the streets.

As previously proven, streets are social-economic engines of the local economy. Food truck vendors have managed to thrive both cities, Portland, OR: adaptive reuse-parking lot and Los Angeles. While the economic niche of food vendors continues to expand or evolve, it is a form of regulatory policy that it is a form of regulatory policy.

The regulations that impact the capabilities of street markets are controlled by no means be downplayed given the highest potential of opportunity, the streets. Urban designer should identify potential sites of opportunity and take ground in places which have unused lanes the certain days of the week. Food truck vendors are allowed to be self-governing in the city, and this amenity to the city but this amenity inhibits their ability to work with the city in a regulatory context.

streetplug is systems public utility amenities
allow anchoring
allow flexible mobile patterns

streetplug in systems
public utility amenities

MORPHOLOGICAL STREET DESIGN

MARKET VENDOR REGULATORY LIBERALIZATION

Portland, OR: adaptive reuse-parking lot

- 12 feet
- [9 x 20] = vendor module
- 20 feet
- [9 x 20] = vendor module

07
Rooted was built upon the inherent power of food culture to bring together people of diverse backgrounds in a comfortable and lively space. Chicago has long served as the heartland for food production, processing, and distribution due to its prime location as the gateway to the east and west. Creating a center of gravity for food and manufacturing creates a unique urban experience, tying together past, present, and future.

While nearby Goose Island development has primarily focused on high-tech research and innovation, North Roots will serve as the steppingstone for local small businesses and residents to begin their industrious journey of building capital. The design draws from Chicago's strong heritage in food and manufacturing to reinvent and reintegrate industry into its urban core.

The proposal also serves to reconnect Wicker Park and Lincoln Park to the east and west, long separated by Kennedy Highway and the underutilized North Branch of the Chicago River. Filling the void creates a common ground for established neighborhoods to gather and experience food, manufacturing, and industry on a new stage. The production of food for the neighborhoods, city, and region establishes an identity for the community.

Rooted reimagines Chicago's strong food and manufacturing history in an industrial marketplace community, enabling the retooling of the workforce and healthy lifestyles.
71% decrease in impervious cover

0.76" rainfall infiltrated in rain gardens and green roofs

Additional rainfall retained in cisterns and basins
GREENHEART VILLAGE

Faculty: Simon Atkinson / Students: Yishuen Lo, Mark Nordby, Mitchell Peterson, Terek Sollom, Katie Summers / School: University of Texas at Austin / Location: Nashville, TN / Date: 2014

ULI Hines Competition Finalist

Greenheart Village establishes a new model of urban living, initiating the re-branding of Nashville as an active, healthy, and engaged community. The 2010 Nashville flood, increasing population growth, and the growth of Nashville highlight the need for a more sustainable and intimate mode of responsible urban living. Greenheart Village utilizes adaptive infrastructure to respond to environmental, social, and economic changes, fostering an environment that encourages adaptation as people engage their local surroundings and a changing world.

Sulfur Springs Bottom, the first permanent settlement in the state of Tennessee, is located at the core of the district. Building on this trailblazing heritage, Greenheart Village leads by example to transform city life and Nashville as a whole. Here, people are introduced to adaptive ways of life and infrastructure. New buildings provide flexible spaces, freely changing to suit market demands, while landscapes change to meet environmental factors.

Adaptation of buildings, streets, and landscapes, together transform the perception of a place. Greenheart Village’s dynamism is an example of healthy living in a downtown district that can act as a catalyst for future growth along the Cumberland River. This waterfront artery ties the city of Nashville together, centered on the Greenheart, the place where it all began.
London’s 2011 census results show that in the past ten years the city experienced its greatest percentage population growth in more than 100 years. Since 2001 nearly 1,000,000 new residents joined London’s ranks. That growth, contrary to typical urban growth in the United States, is not an indication that citizens are moving back to the city. In fact, the data reveals that London lost 740,000 domestic migrants during the past ten years. Instead, as is typical of many major European cities, the vast majority of that growth is from net international migration.

In line with the city’s dynamic evolution, planning officials are striving to embrace residential and commercial growth without compromising the unique characteristics of each borough, which make them distinct. Bishopsgate has been derelict since a fire on the site in the 1960s and demolition of the majority of the buildings in 2004. In April 2010, Shoreditch High Street Station on the London Overground Line opened in the center of the site with the ‘boxed’ London Overground Line providing services to the south east, north London and Canary Wharf. In the north of the site, adjacent to Bethnal Green Road, are a number of ‘Power League’ temporary football pitches and the temporary ‘Box Park Shopping Mall’, comprising of shops and cafes, in refurbished shipping containers.

With the potential development of the Bishopsgate Goodsyard fast approaching, a positive improvement on the site is absolutely necessary to secure the success of the area.
The projects and exercises explored during the course of this term are intended to provide the student with a foundation in the perceptual, conceptual and technique-based skills necessary for subsequent design work in architecture / interior design. Sequentially linked projects will begin by introducing a question, tested through a series of variables and end with a possible design response. Projects have been devised to encourage many avenues of inquiry with students taking responsibility in framing their own investigations.

Through a series of design challenges, students explored aspects of design composition through issues of figure/ground, parts/whole, hierarchy, and responded to the insertion of occupations and flow through spatial responses on a series of tectonic and stereotomic components. This project focused on exploring the response to context and to connect three distinct spaces called the site, bridge, and tower. Issues of vertical circulation and view were also explored.
SUPERIOR POINT-SCAPE: CLEVELAND’S OUTDOOR LABORATORY

Collaborators: Ashley Craig, Edna Ledesma & Jessica Zarowitz / Advisor: Simon Atkinson / Location: Cleveland, Ohio / Date: 2012

Cleveland Design Competition National Winners

Superior Point-scape, Cleveland’s outdoor laboratory or education, exploration and physical activity was unveiled to the public. A cutting edge, innovative space, reestablishing a pivotal connection between Downtown Cleveland, the Industrial Flats and Cleveland’s west side neighborhood; this urban renewal project is infusing new energy and activity into the center of the city.

This type of redevelopment represents a resurgence, a movement that has the potential to reinvent the heart of Cleveland and catalyze future textured development. This project re-imagined and transformed the Detroit Superior Bridge into an experiential destination. Pointscape’s intentionally minimal intervention allows the beauty of infrastructure to be made visible, while also creating a series of dynamic spaces, unlike anything Cleveland has ever experienced. Here, the city community can come together to become reconnected with the history and reminded of the future of natural systems, specifically water. Using water systems as a unifying design element, adventure through the bridge and adjacent scapes yields limitless discovery. The overlay of systems creates an ever-changing backdrop for a diversity of individual and collective experiences. Water’s shifting qualities are articulated in each scape through its demonstrative, performative and experiential manifestation. The Superior Point-scape creates a unique destination that is truly of Cleveland.
E: PLATEAU, AN AUSTIN ORIGINAL: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PRESERVATION + PROGRESS

Collaborators: Ashley Craig, Jenna Dezinski, Edna Ledesma & Jessica Zarowitz / Advisor: Simon Atkinson / Location: Austin, Texas / Date: 2013

The genius loci, or spirit of the City of Austin, is deeply embedded in its connection to water. The Intake Facility is located at the point where downtown Austin touches Lady Bird Lake, where the city connects with its most precious resource. This is celebrated in the design for E. PLATEAU, Austin’s new civic space, a multi-use, net-positive, public facility that connects to the Lady Bird Lake and trails, to downtown, to the new Library and the Seaholm Power Plant, and to old and new residential neighborhoods. It provides a prospect overlooking our lake and a refuge in the heart of this energetic and growing city. Financial sustainability is provided by the entrepreneurial businesses on site: spa, swimming pool, café, and special event venue. Production of energy is essential, in addition to employing closed loop cycles and green technologies. This phased project, would begin with trail improvements and provision of the event/gallery space, then expand into the spa and outdoor swimming pool when economically feasible. Further phases include lowering Cesar Chavez to create a large public space between the Intake, Seaholm, and the Library, and burying the overhead power lines, enabling the smaller building to be developed. At each phase, the design offers memorable ways to experience Austin. Infusing this area with new life will help Austinites to reconnect with their city, their environment and most importantly with each other.
MASTER PLAN

LADY BIRD LAKE WALKING TRAIL

SEAHOLM POWER PLANT ROOFTOP

Lake water intake

Individual aeromatic spa rooms

Pedestrian bridge link to Seaholm

Power plant pedestrian link to Lady Bird hike & bike trail

Historic cistern

Solar canopy

Natural swimming pool

Deep end

Shallow end

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SELECTED WORKS 2010-2017

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