CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Urban Interiority: adaptive reuse and environmental agency

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• Abstract (300 words):

An accelerated rate of development has left our cities cluttered with vacant structures. These traces of our use sit idle in often contested conditions. Reappropriating such spaces within the city is the main focus of this paper, gauging the synthesis and propagation of new strategies to reactivate decommissioned segments of the built environment.

Such approaches to design are not new, adaptive reuse has been a dominant mode of producing and reproducing spatial narratives since antiquity. Such modalities issue multi-faceted sites and conditions that are often contextual rousers, to say the least. Not only are the politics of adaptive reuse rich, but also the need for such resilience in design is now more urgent than ever due to the increasing scarcity of resources. Additionally, the pressing realities of climate change require a prompt and robust response to how we approach a new era of architectural interventions, positioning interior thinking and design modalities at the center of environmentally responsible practice.

Driving strong, measurable and meaningful action on climate change requires us to think outside the bounds of conventions, and employ design in new trajectories. As the era of dependence on fossil fuels comes to an end, replaced by renewable energy sources and virtual connectivity, a paradigm shift in urban thinking must occur. Energy forms fundamentally shape the attributes and capabilities of society. Accordingly, a genuine and comprehensive shift in energy today demands (in addition to the adoption of renewable, ecologically sustainable energy sources) new political structures, social
dynamics, educational systems, discursive modes, values, practices, and habits. Undoubtedly, future cities will have to contend with new complexities, whether those stem from the irresponsible approaches of the past era, or the ever-changing programmatic needs and narratives of contemporary life.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

**Rana Abudayyeh** is an Assistant Professor, and the Robin Klehr Avia Professor of Interior Architecture at the University of Tennessee’s College of Architecture and Design. Abudayyeh’s pedagogical interests focus on advancing new modes of architectural production employing computational design, digital fabrication, and novel material logics. She seeks to define innovative design trajectories rooted in a site-based approach that responds to various contextual layers. Understanding context constitutes the foundational premise of the design intent and its consequent manifestations.

Abudayyeh joined the faculty at UT-Knoxville in 2015 after teaching at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning from 2004-2012. Previously, she worked at Antoine Predock Architect on numerous design competitions, federal, public, and private projects, most recent of which is the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. She is a licensed architect in her native country, Jordan, where she is currently researching the ongoing refugee crisis in the Middle East while examining current models of interior spatial constructs in refugee camps.