

Transient Spaces

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Abstract

Mass migration is one of the most important issues confronting cities in the 21st century. Increased border tensions and internal conflicts compounded by environmental degradation and economic precariousness have created impromptu urban enclaves whose very character and economies are defined by migration. Continuous flows of people leaving and arriving challenge architects, planners, governments and policy makers to create infrastructural systems and spatial fabric of unparalleled elasticity.

Transient Spaces is a curated collection of projects and essays addressing the impact of mass migration on cities around the world. The book examines transience as a force of opportunity and resilience in the design of cities and includes contributions from notable writers, designers and thinkers.

How do global cities cope with populations in flux? What can they do to leverage the human capital, intellectual potential and entrepreneurial capacity of migrants to revitalize local economies and repair civic, cultural and environmental infrastructures?

In impermanence lies potential. The work in *Transient Spaces* explores opportunities for cities to leverage conditions of impermanence in order to catalyze change, meet the needs of migrant populations, and foster sustainable urban development policies that benefit both host and guest communities more effectively.

Transient Spaces is a provocation to explore cross-disciplinary borders and wider fields of knowledge. It is an exhortation to all nations, political leaders, planners and citizens of the world to open our minds and borders to the potential growth that comes from the interaction, integration, and innovation made possible the exchange of resources and ideas beyond borders.

THEMATIC ORGANIZATION



Figure 1. *Book's Thematic Organization*. *Transient Spaces* (New York: the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York, 2019), pg. XXII.

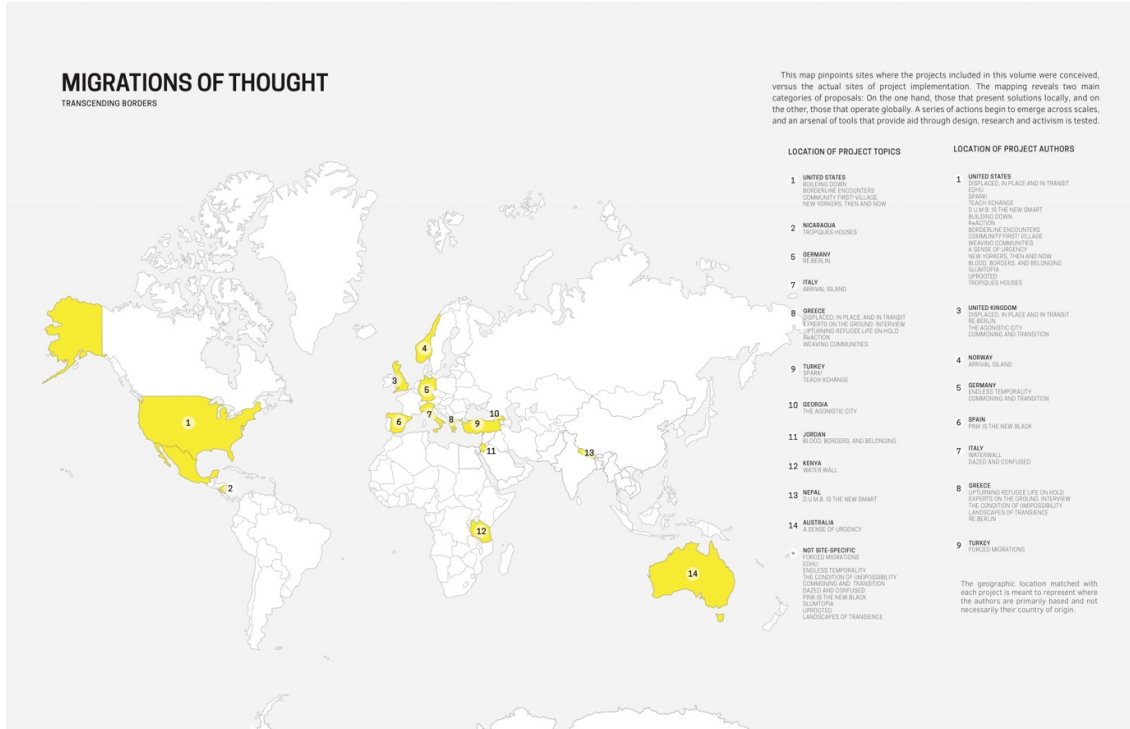


Figure 2. *Migrations of Thought* _ Geolocating the book's projects and essays. Transient Spaces (New York: the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York, 2019), pg. XX

ACTIVATING

Repurposing abandoned spaces and underutilized resources. Transience agitates stagnant systems and exposes hidden possibilities. These projects revitalize infrastructure.

EMPOWERING

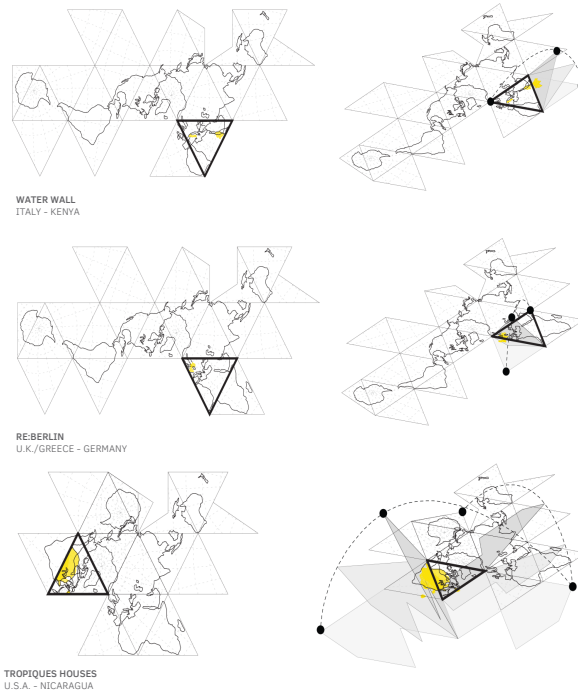
Rebuilding identity and providing tools for independence. The micro-economies that surge in these contexts provide autonomy and resilience in the face of adversity. These projects reestablish the stability lost in transit.

INTEGRATING

Creating dialogue between temporality and the urgent needs of a population in transit. By addressing the permanence in impermanence, connections between prolonged displacement and its unintended consequences are exposed. These projects foster community and development.

SPECULATING

Questioning the causes of transience and how we can change them. Unfettered by pragmatic constraints, speculation opens up new ways of thinking. These projects are imaginative and utopic.



A L R E R A I V I N G

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Figure 3. *Book's Organizing Principles and Projects' Geographic Dislocation expressed in dymaxion maps.* Transient Spaces (New York: the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York, 2019), pg XIII, XVI.