



Space and Place
Lecture 6 Essay Seminar
Coexistent Perspectives (ADAA7000)

Question 3. Space and Place: *How do contemporary creative practices engage with the politics and poetics of space, including questions of displacement, postcolonial geography, affective architectures, or the uncanny? What critical frameworks can be used to analyse these spatial imaginaries?*

Question 4. Time, Memory and the Archive: *In what ways do contemporary artists and designers reimagine time, memory, and archival practice, whether through repetition, rupture, slowness, or non-linear temporality? How do these temporal aesthetics intersect with cultural, technological, or historical concerns?*

Do Ho Suh — Domestic Space, Displacement, and the Poetics of Home



Home Within Home (2013)



Rubbing/Loving Project (2016–)

EXAMPLE 1: Do Ho Suh — Domestic Space, Displacement, and the Poetics of Home

Essay Question

How does Do Ho Suh's exploration of architectural memory and portable domestic spaces articulate experiences of displacement and belonging in a globalised world?

Thesis

Do Ho Suh's translucent fabric replicas of his former homes transform private architectural memory into migratory, affective, and relational space. Through a postcolonial and phenomenological lens, his work demonstrates how *place* becomes a portable construct of identity — a lived *Thirdspace* (Soja) that resists fixity while preserving intimacy.

Theoretical Frameworks

- Yi-Fu Tuan (1977) – *Topophilia* and the affective bond with place.
- Edward Soja (1996) – *Thirdspace* as lived, real-and-imagined spatiality.
- Doreen Massey (2005) – space as “a product of interrelations” and “always under construction.”
- Sara Ahmed (2006) – *orientation* and migration as bodily reorientation.

Essay Outline

1. Introduction

- Introduce Do Ho Suh and his transnational context (Seoul → New York → London).
- Outline key concepts: displacement, affective architecture, relational space.

2. Theoretical Context

- Brief synthesis of Tuan, Soja, Massey, Ahmed.
- Define “relational space” and “Thirdspace.”

3. Case Studies

- *Home Within Home* (2013), *Rubbing/Loving Project* (2016–) — analysis through phenomenology and memory.

4. Discussion

- How Suh's work turns home into a *portable topology* — space as experience rather than fixed location.

5. Conclusion

- Reflection on Suh's contribution to rethinking the politics of belonging through spatial poetics.

Forensic Architecture — Space, Power, and Counter-Cartography



Rafah: Black Friday (2015)



Saydnaya (2016)

EXAMPLE 2: Forensic Architecture — Space, Power, and Counter-Cartography

Model Essay Question

In what ways does Forensic Architecture transform the politics of spatial representation into a critical practice of resistance and accountability?

Thesis

Forensic Architecture reclaims spatial analysis as an activist methodology — converting the tools of surveillance, mapping, and architectural modeling into forms of counter-cartography. By reframing *space* as a site of power and contestation (Lefebvre, Foucault, Easterling), their investigations reveal how architecture is entangled with state violence and systems of visibility.

Theoretical Frameworks

- **Henri Lefebvre (1974)** – *The Production of Space* (space as socially produced and political).
- **Michel Foucault (1975/86)** – space, surveillance, and heterotopia.
- **Keller Easterling (2014)** – *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space*.
- **Edward Soja (1996)** – *Thirdspace* and spatial justice.

Essay Outline

Introduction

- Introduce Forensic Architecture as a London-based research agency.
- Define “spatial justice” and counter-mapping.

1. Theoretical Context

- From Lefebvre’s “social production of space” to Easterling’s “infrastructure space.”

2. Case Studies

- *Rafah: Black Friday* (2015) or *Saydnaya* (2016) — spatial reconstruction as testimony.

3. Discussion

- How their visual methodologies turn architecture into political evidence.
- Relation to Foucault’s panopticism and visibility regimes.

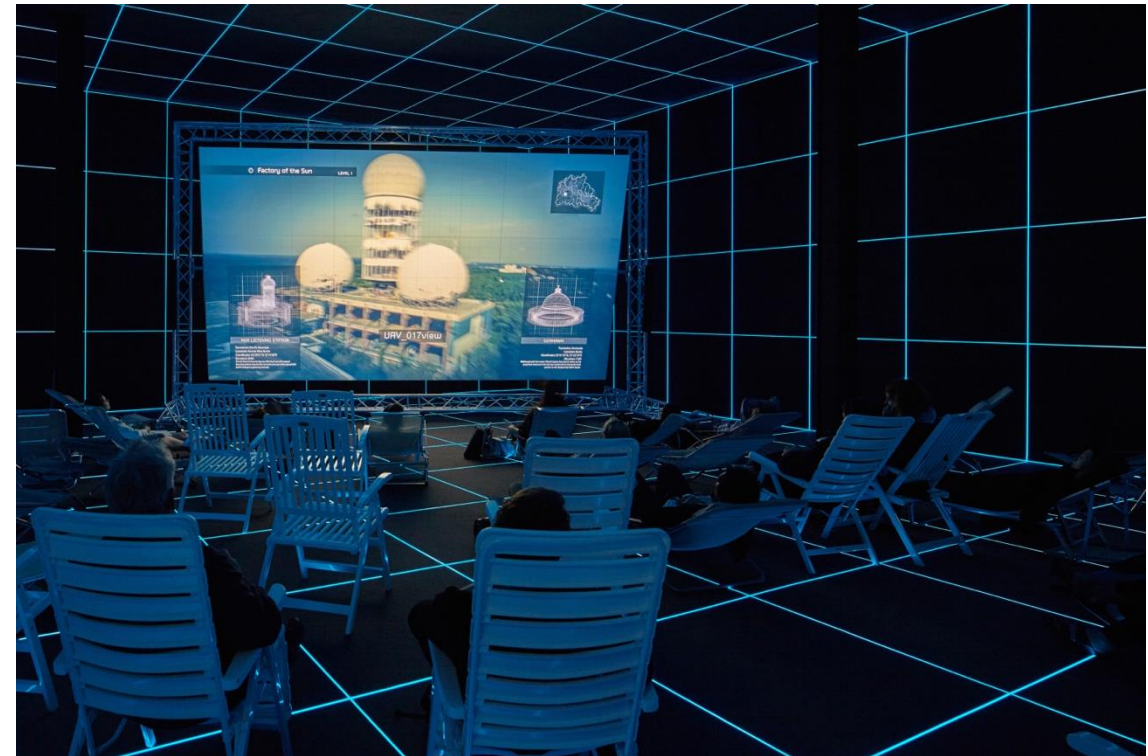
4. Conclusion

- Reclaiming spatial practice as ethics of exposure and collective memory.

Hito Steyerl — Digital Spatialities and the Politics of the Virtual



How Not to Be Seen (2013)



Factory of the Sun (2015)

EXAMPLE 3: Hito Steyerl — Digital Spatialities and the Politics of the Virtual

Model Essay Question

How does Hito Steyerl's moving-image practice critique the spatial logics of surveillance, mobility, and virtuality in contemporary networked culture?

Thesis

Through works such as *How Not to Be Seen: A Fucking Didactic Educational .MOV File* (2013) and *Factory of the Sun* (2015), Hito Steyerl exposes the collapse of physical and digital spatial boundaries under conditions of global capitalism. Her videos perform a critical aesthetics of invisibility that merges *Foucault's panopticism* with *Deleuze's control society*, reframing "space" as a coded terrain of data, power, and affect.

Theoretical Frameworks

- **Michel Foucault (1975)** – *Panopticism* and disciplinary space.
- **Gilles Deleuze (1992)** – *Postscript on the Societies of Control*.
- **Rob Kitchin & Martin Dodge (2011)** – *Code/Space* (software-produced spatiality).
- **Shoshana Zuboff (2019)** – *Surveillance Capitalism*.
- **Doreen Massey (2005)** – relational spatial multiplicity.

Essay Outline

1. Introduction

- Situate Steyerl in the context of post-internet and media art.
- Frame spatial critique: visibility, surveillance, digital flow.

2. Theoretical Context

- Transition from panoptic architectures to algorithmic infrastructures.

3. Case Studies

- *How Not to Be Seen* (2013); *Factory of the Sun* (2015).

4. Discussion

- The aesthetic of glitch and disappearance as spatial resistance.
- Rewriting the "digital non-place" (Augé → Zuboff).

5. Conclusion

- The politics of representation in the age of data-space.

Artist	Spatial Focus	Key Theorists	Example Thesis Angle
Do Ho Suh	Affective architectures; displacement; memory	Tuan, Soja, Massey, Ahmed	Home as migratory and relational space
Forensic Architecture	Power; surveillance; mapping; spatial justice	Lefebvre, Foucault, Easterling, Soja	Counter-cartography as resistance
Hito Steyerl	Digital spatiality; visibility; algorithmic control	Foucault, Deleuze, Kitchin & Dodge, Zuboff	The virtual as a political geography