

ARCH 170 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 5PM



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

ARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Land Moves

GABRIEL CUÉLLAR

Gabriel Cuéllar (he/him) is an architect, urban designer, educator, and co-director of Cadaster, a design practice with Athar Mufreh established in 2016. Cadaster designs for systems change, co-producing strategic frameworks with local governments and community-based organizations driving systemic spatial transformation. Prior to establishing Cadaster, he worked in architecture and urbanism offices in Zurich, Paris, Amsterdam, Houston, and New York City. Gabriel is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan, where he develops research focused on the spatial dimensions of property, design frameworks for contemporary environments, and the contribution of design to land-based struggles.



ABSTRACT

Land is at the foundation of American society and struggles for justice. On the whole, land is understood as 'real property.' As a legal-economic construct, property is prevalent but it rarely accounts for the deeper cultural and ecological role of 'land.' While the spatial disciplines have entrenched relationships with land as property, their connection with land, and land struggles, is largely undefined. This talk will demonstrate how design can be a key tool in advancing land struggles and understanding land/property from the lens of 'two-eyed seeing.' Drawing from design-research embedded in land-based movements and emerging collective property frameworks, the talk will propose a set of land moves: a shift from labor to practice, from owner to neighbor, and from lot to region.