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SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

ARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Loosening the Slack

WILLIS KINGERY

How does one designer communicate the expressive possibilities of purpose and intent behind the work of another designer? The graphic designer who works with architecture as subject matter faces a version of this question with every project. Results vary, depending on who you ask. Where is the meeting point between architecture and alphabets? Schools continue to keep architects and graphic designers in different buildings during their formative years. It is only later in our professional lives that our disciplines merge and intertwine. Are we really so different? A shared existential desire is found in the discursive outputs of both disciplines: the stubborn and possibly delusional insistence on the linguistic nature of our act, speaking new vocabularies of form into being through the language of design.



BIO

Willis Kingery is a graphic designer concerned with connecting others to meaningful worlds of text, image, and ideas through language, form, and intent. He runs an independent office for everyday communication in Somerville, Massachusetts, where he is also a consultant designer to the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. In 2025 he was the Design Director and Curatorial Researcher for Faktura 10, a yearlong program that reflected upon an emerging landscape of cultural discourse in Ukraine. Recent clients include Columbia GSAPP, Yale School of Architecture, the Urban Theory Lab at University of Chicago, Cornell AAP, NYU Center for the Humanities, the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYPL, PERFORMA, Citygroup, Tin Sheds Gallery, Houghton Library, Frances Loeb Library, and the Harvard University Committee on the Arts. He is currently a visiting lecturer at Massachusetts College of Art and Design and has taught variously at Boston University, Northeastern University, Parsons School of Design, and Yale School of Art. He holds an MFA from the Yale School of Art.