

STEM | Producing Climates

Produce a new micro-climate or counter-climate for your plant. Analyze and document how this new environment alters the decay, preservation, or survival of the plant in some way.

As noted in the all-studio handout: *this brief will develop with minimal input from your critic. It requires self-direction and that you negotiate the freedom you have in determining your path. It requires that you take a risk in finding one element to focus on, and that you engage the discipline that is necessary to follow it. Analytic observation is critical to architecture. This exercise requests that you are strategically observant of events, calculative of your actions, and accountable for their results.*

Tasks: (please note a few minor alternations to the all-studio handout):

- i. Use the plant given on September 7 and two other identical (or close to identical) plants to run a total of three simultaneous tests in parallel. One plant should be a control. The other two are to test different actions or different environmental scenarios (e.g. supporting surface, orientation, location, etc.)
- ii. Apply a maximum of one action, once, to each plant.
- iii. Scan or photograph each plant with a white or black background every 8 hours for a period of 4 days. Capture images that approximate orthographic views (front, side, top elevations).
- iv. Select one plant for your final documentation, and select 6 out of these 12 intervals. You may reference to one or more of the other plant experiments if relevant to your final conclusions.
- v. Create a drawing that clearly demonstrates and performs how the plant has been impacted by its new environment. Register time and change through a composite and/or layered drawing, or by using techniques such as section drawings, diagrams, timelines, or charts. Use line weight to reveal what is being cut, what is hidden, what is moving, and what is beyond. Devise a strategy for the drawing to be read without a verbal explanation. Optional: document the changing shape, size, color and weight of the plant.

Deliverables and Rules (please note a few minor alternations to the all-studio handout):

- Drawing area: One 864 square inch piece of paper that shows a minimum of 6 intervals. Layers can overlap, or be arrayed horizontally or vertically. The exact number of intervals is to be determined according to the logic of your project.
- Drawing medium: Ink on Mylar (drafted or printed)
- Labels: LAST NAME/GSAPP/CRITIC NAME/FALL 2011/ BRIEF I
- Color: Two colors maximum (black and white are considered colors)
- Bitmap: Photos can be used as documenting devices/process but not as final presentation.
- Scale and Layout: Choose a consistent format – scale, measure, lettering, etc. – throughout the drawing.
- Action: You may impart one action to the plant that produces a new micro-climate or counter-climate for the plant: heat, slice, flatten, pin, peel, laminate, torque, freeze, contain etc.
- Text: Notational text is encouraged. Paragraph text is not.

Recommended Readings:

Michael Pollan *The Botany of Desire*, “Chapter Two, Desire: Beauty/Plant: The Tulip” and “Chapter 4, Desire: Control/Plant: The Potato”

"Haacke's condensation cube: the machine in the box and the travails of architecture," Mark Jarzombek

Schedule:

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| Sep 9 Fri | introductions + informal pinup pin up photographs of your three plants full scale storyboard-style mockup of drawing layout |
| Sep 12 Mon | desk crits full scale drawing draft |
| Sep 14 Wed | REVIEW |