LOOKOUTS

Idaho has about 200 fire lookout towers, making it the state with the highest number of surviving towers of this type.

A century ago, these towers, tucked away in the wilds of the mountains, played a vital role in spotting and preventing forest fires. Today, they represent heritage sites that hold the stories of those who lived there; facing solitude and enduring challenging conditions.

Extreme weather, isolation, and logistical obstacles will be the focal points of our investigation in this studio.

Fire lookout towers will serve as precedents of a design exploration aimed at creating new architectural typologies that can relate to contemporary and future mountain dwellers in Idaho.

This studio will be a dual exploration, both inward and outward, navigating through different scales. We'll examine the broad view of the lookout area using maps and diagrams, comparing it continuously with the minute details of the actual shelters - employing sketches, construction methods, and operating guidelines.

As the ice melts, design ideas will be eventually landed in the actual locations of the Idaho mountains.