

WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS

VERTICAL STUDIO

INSTRUCTOR: LORI SMITHEY



Wardian Case, c.1830s



Cartoonish Metropolis, Bureau Spectacular, 2012

The world interior of capital is not an agora or a trade fair beneath the open sky, but rather a hothouse that has drawn inwards everything that was once on the outside.

-Peter Sloterdijk

It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories.

-Donna Haraway

COURSE OVERVIEW

By imagining two worlds nested one inside the other, the collective studio and individual student projects will interrogate not only the threshold between the building and the world, but the many thresholds that reside within the architectural object itself. We will move through a series of exploratory exercises at the beginning of the semester. This will include using the micro-scale of an artifact as a means to trace and gather macro-scale narratives, as well as experimentations with nested forms. Students will then develop individual studio projects that reflect their research interests and agendas, such as an ecological, social, or technological focus. Each project will learn from the complex local conditions of a chosen site to speculate on new spatial futures. The ultimate goal is to produce speculative but ground responses to contemporary problems by developing spatial imaginaries that afford a more expansive understanding of entangled world space.