

UIUC School of Architecture ARCH 401 EMS, CRN 30252, SPRING 2025 THE FUTURE OF MATERIALITY : Ethical and Equitable Material Sourcing

Spring 2025 | Patricia Saldana Natke, FAIA | Professor | 312.735.5436 Cell

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SEMINAR: The Future of Materiality: FRIDAYS 1PM to 3:30 PM VIRTUAL, Plus NYC Trip

(Virtual on Zoom plus NYC Trip)

THE FUTURE OF MATERIALITY: Ethical and Equitable Material Sourcing

The Seminar Course will analyze the ethical and social dimensions of building materials. The current global supply chain includes over 45 million people around the world still working under forms of coercion, with over 70% being women and children. A \$150 billion dollar industry of forced labor and forms of human trafficking are still in existence. The class will trace the supply chain of many commonly used building materials, among them brick, copper, drywall, stone, and timber. Through research on material production, procurement and construction techniques through an ethical lens, the course will add to the architectural movement of material transparency and awareness, including future material sourcing industry certifications as led by the Design for Freedom initiative. The seminar will include readings, discussions, guest speakers, and an **optional trip to the Design for Freedom Summit in New Canaan, Connecticut on March 27, 2025.**

The course is also an optional ACSA Design for Freedom Research Design Competition Submission.



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GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Sharon Prince, Grace Farms, CEO & Founder, New Canaan, Connecticut

Marcelo Aflalo, President, Nucleo de Referencia em Tecnologia Madera/Timber, Sao Paulo Brazil

OPTIONAL CLASS TRIP to NYC and Connecticut:

Suggested Trip Dates: Wednesday March 26, 2025 to Monday March 31, 2025

Design for Freedom Summit, Grace Farms, New Canaan, Connecticut Thursday March 27, 2025

UIUC Graduate Arch Seminar 401 Spring 2025

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Required Readings:

- Design for Freedom Report, available online [Design For Freedom](#)
- Who Builds Your Architecture, 2017, available online [Who Builds Your Architecture?: A Critical Field Guide | Who Builds Your Architecture? \(WBYA?\)](#)
- Design for Freedom Material Toolkit
- IIT/UIUC Ethical Materials Study, 4th and 5th Year Document, 2022, Graduate Document 2023.

Additional Suggested Readings:

- “The Freedom Ecosystem”, (Deloitte, 2021) available online at <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/topics/social-impact/freedom-ecosystem-stop-modernslavery.html>
- Gabriel Benachio et al, “Circular economy in the construction industry: A systematic literature review” 260 J. Cleaner Production (July, 2020).
- Alliance 8.7, “Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains,” ILO, OECD, IOM, UNICEF (Geneva, 2019).
- “Modern Slavery in Company Operations and SupplyChains: Mandatory Transparency, Mandatory Due Diligence, and Public Procurement Due Diligence” (Business Human Rights Resource Centre, 2017).
- Chartered Institute of Building, Modern Slavery: The Dark Side of Construction (London, 2015).
- “An Ancient Problem, a New Awareness: Slavery in Construction Materials Supply Chains,” 21 Under Construction 4 (March 2020) (magazine of American Bar Association Construction Law Section), (King & C.deBaca, 2020).
- United States Customs & Border Protection, “Forced Labor”, available online at <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/programs-administration/forced-labor>.
- Preventing Forced Labor in Corporate Supply Chains: The Fair Food Program and Worker-Driven Social Responsibility, 52 WAKE FOREST L.REV. 497, 532 (Asbed & Hitov, 2017)
- Bernstein, Phillip G., “Project Delivery Methods” The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition (American Institute of Architects, Wiley, 2014)

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- The Building Responsibly Principles and Guidance Notes, available online at <https://www.building-responsibly.org/resources>.
- Chartered Institute of Building, Building A Fairer System: tackling modern slavery in construction supply chains (London, 2016).
- Federal Acquisition Regulation, subpart 22.17 Combating Trafficking in Persons, and associated clause at FAR 52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons.
- “Importing Freedom: Using the U.S. Tariff Act to Combat Forced Labor in Supply Chains,” The Human Trafficking Legal Center (Syam & Roggensack, 2020).