

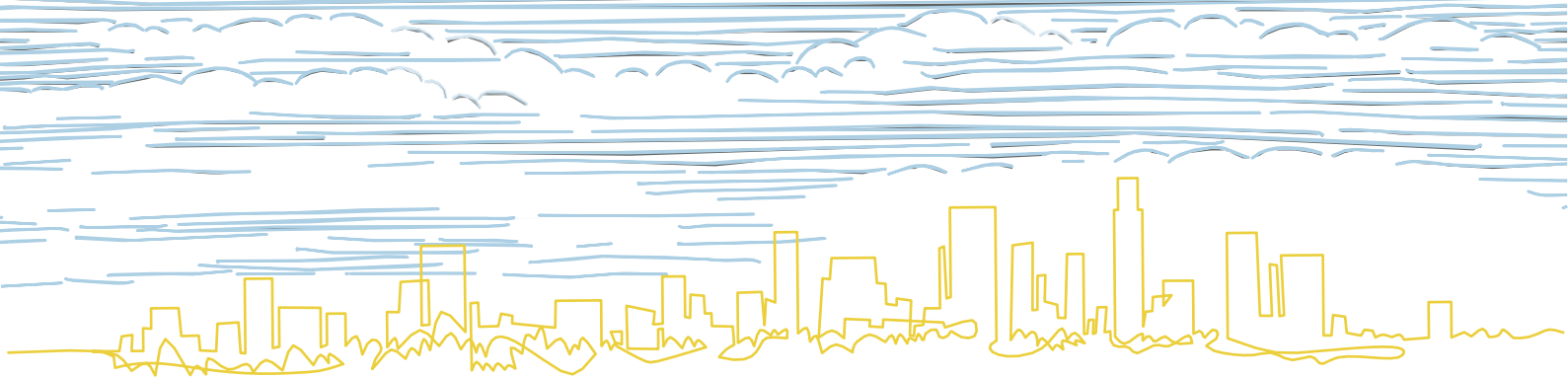
ARCH 596: Special Problems in Health and Wellbeing

Building Anthropocene Air

Dr Didem Ekici, Spring 2026

Wednesdays 9.00 am-11:00 am

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“Building Anthropocene Air” will conceptualize air as a dynamic sociopolitical component of buildings, cities, and environments from the 19th century onwards. From the breathing walls of the nineteenth-century urban hygiene to the airtight building envelopes of the post-WWII era, we will study the manufacture of artificial climates in buildings and the great indoors in relation to the evolving concepts of atmosphere, climate, climatic design, air quality, and thermal comfort. We will examine anthropogenic airborne threats including contagion, pollution, and the weaponization of air as well as the systemic social and racial inequalities inherent in them. Interrogating the interconnected physical and cultural histories of air in its various manifestations, “Building Anthropocene Air” will encourage students to think beyond the technocratic sustainable or resilient design solutions that see climate change primarily as a physical process.