

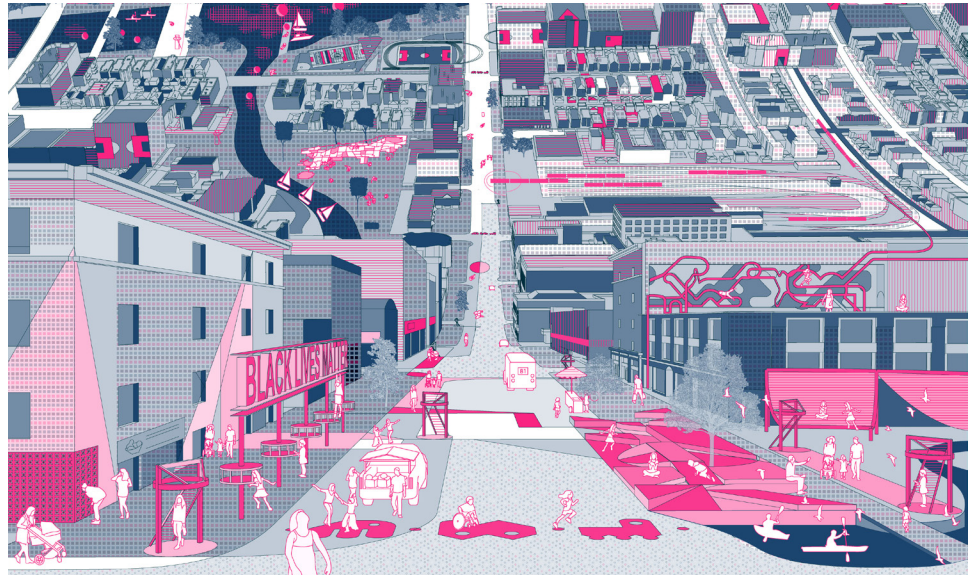
SEMINAR— SUPERGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES + CULTURAL CORRIDORS

Illinois School of Architecture
jshuler@illinois.edu
Spring 2026

ARCH 593: Special Problems in Detail and Fabrication | 3.000 Credits
Joseph Altshuler, Assistant Professor
Thursdays 11:00–1:50 | Architecture Building 205

Right: Joseph Altshuler and
Nekita Thomas, *Care-Scapes: A
Speculative Drawing* (2026).

Below: Could Be Design
(Joseph Altshuler & Zack Morrison),
Carousel for Companionship (2023).



Calling all 3rd— and 4th—year undergraduates and graduate students interested in public space, public art, social infrastructure, and urban design!

Sitting at the crossroads of architecture, graphic design, landscape architecture, and historic preservation, *Supergraphic Landscapes + Cultural Corridors* investigates the future of public space—and how rethinking graphics in the built environment can spark new forms of civic participation. What if the city could remember, care, or play back? This course reframes graphics not as decorative overlays but as active agents capable of transforming public spaces into places of connection, care, and collective memory. We'll examine how a painted pattern, a textured path, or a layered graphic can interrupt daily routines, nurture intimacy, hold shared histories, and carve new cultural corridors across the city. Throughout the semester, we'll speak with contemporary design practitioners, collaborate with real-world community partners, and produce speculative drawings and models that imagine bold civic design interventions and social infrastructure for the Urbana-Champaign community.

The course unfolds through three thematic lenses, each offering a distinct narrative entry point into the theory and practice of Supergraphic Landscapes: **Play-scapes**—saturated patterns that reorganize movement and invite role-playing, risk-taking, and cooperative games; **Care-scapes**—surface textures that soften infrastructures to support everyday life; **Action-scapes**—monumental gestures and superimposed layers that open new forms of commemoration. For each theme, a guest practitioner will join us virtually to share project experience, design strategies, and intellectual insight. The course will culminate in a civic design proposal with and for a community partner.

