Heading: FAR LESS

Period: Fall Semester 2019-2020

Team: Emilio Caravatti, Riccardo Vannucci

Theme: A building system applicable to a network of medical clinics in Sub-Saharan countries

Content: A region affected by chronic poverty and political instability, West Africa is also exposed to climate change and its social and environmental consequences. The studio will thus be used as an opportunity to reflect on:

1) architects’ ability to provide typological and technological responses to extreme situations at social, environmental and economic level;

2) the possibility to envision healthcare facilities in the region that are both feasible and in line with the overwhelming needs of the local populations;

3) the validity of vernacular traditions vis-à-vis developments in materials science and engineering simulation capabilities.

Objectives: To develop an approach to design and construction that is based on the maximization of industrial and natural assets.

To explore limitations and opportunities in the way construction is carried out socially.

To plan spatial facilities within explicit constraints by defining appropriate design strategies based on functional needs and available resources.

To formalize technological solutions at architectural level.

Methods: Students will first produce a multi-dimensional analysis of the context of intervention by groups. The analysis will be organised along three main axes: 1) functional needs; 2) technological systems; 3) built references. The work will provide the documentary basis for the design. This is aimed at articulating the potential of the program while teasing out its structural constraints. Students will then be placed in smaller teams to develop the building proposal at the centre of the studio. Within each team clear individual responsibilities and contributions will be defined.

Evaluation: Specific tasks: 20%

Mid-term review: 30%

Final review: 50%

Resources: Documentation of site, industrial context, social conditions and architectural references will be provided by FAR.

Language: English/French