

From the Desk of Clarisse Wean



The New Office-free City

Luke Ciminillo Delamotte

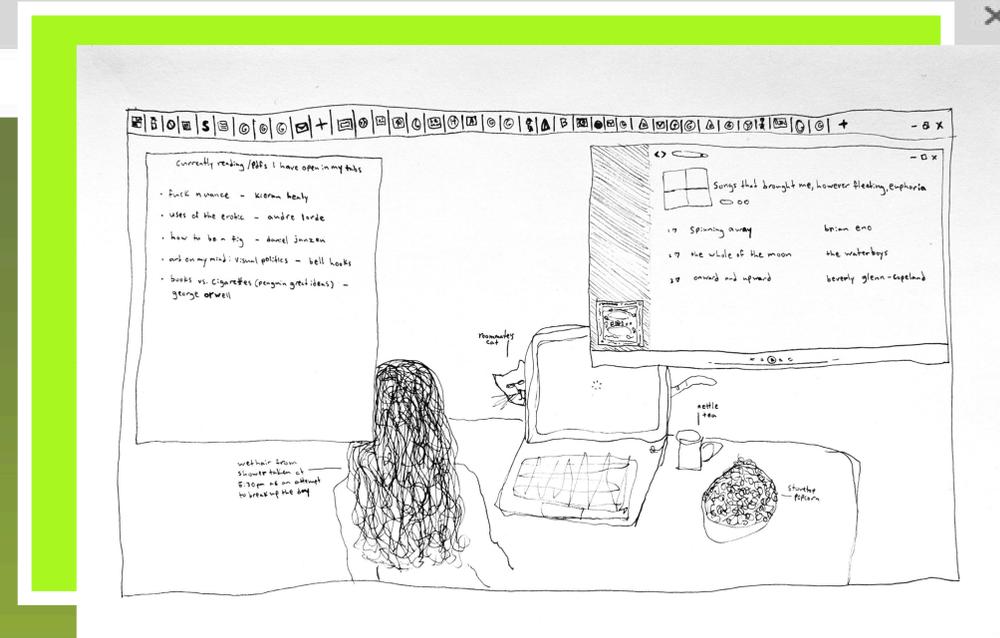
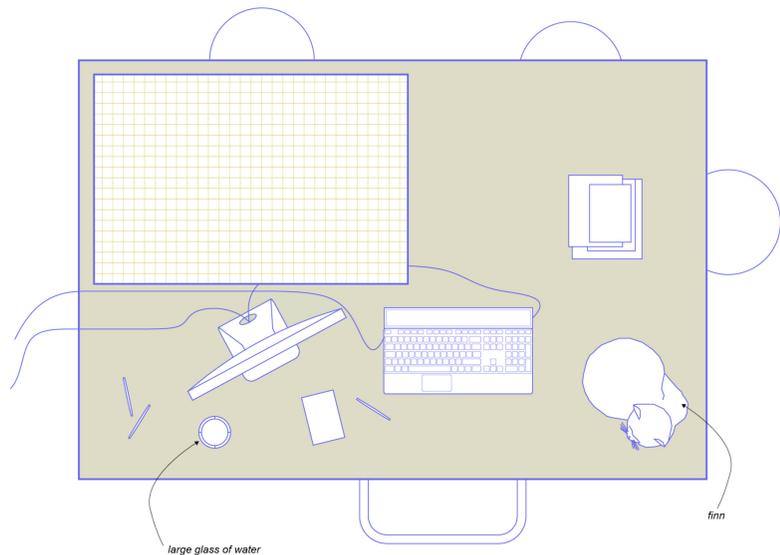
Covid-19 has shown, for better or worse, just how much work can be done remotely. This is especially true for white-collar jobs. For years, new technologies were making it possible to work from home. For the most part, all an office worker really needed was email, yet few actually left the cubicle for their couch. Tradition and precedent are hard things to fight against, but a global pandemic might just be up to the task.

Eventually, social distancing will be a thing of the past, although everyday it seems less sure. However what will remain? It seems likely that more and more Americans will want to work remotely, or at the very least be ok with it and, with the cost cutting benefits, more companies will encourage it. No longer tied to an office, people are free to both work and live anywhere. If where you live is no longer determined by where you can find a job, then where do you live? This question may very well be facing cities sooner than later. For years, city leaders looking to improve their economy and grow their city tried to attract companies to set up shop. They built office space and gave tax cuts, all with the hope of becoming the perfect destination for a new headquarters. The belief was that by bringing in more and more large corporate businesses, higher paying jobs would follow, and as such, growing local economies and the city itself. But does being home to 10, 20, or any number of Fortune 500 companies matter if all of their employees live somewhere else, spending their paychecks elsewhere?

This is not exactly a new problem. In recent years, new grads often pick where they want to live before they find a job. For young Americans entering the workforce, what makes certain cities attractive are their hard-to-define characteristics, the quality of life experienced by inhabitants, the very city itself.

White-collar companies and businesses will soon no longer provide gravity to cities and much like manufacturing towns before them, will fall apart if they do not find something new to keep people staying. While this task seems daunting, imagine what life could be if our cities were not beholden to companies but rather to people, if the only consideration a planner had to make was whether a new project would increase the quality of life of a resident rather than how much business it would attract. I will be glad to see COVID gone, but it has shown us a future where jobs are no longer tied to place, and where cities can solely be made for a person.

From the Desk of Erin Miller



From the Desk of Malena Grigoli

From the Desk of Henry de Leon



I haven't accomplished a lot, but I've learned to be okay with it. Some days feel like marathons while others feel like sprints, which kind of skews how much you think you are doing in a day.

I've been reading more. Each class has put me on to a lot of great people like Peggy Deamer, Craig L. Wilkins and Michael Sarkin. There was a lot of doubt going into this year, but reading about how people in the profession are battling the status quo has been a ray of hope.

Lots of podcasts. It's really refreshing to hear other peoples' voices even if they are pre-recorded. Especially when they are about recent events happening around you. One in particular (Heist Podcast), focuses on heists committed through the years across the globe. It's really interesting how people adapt their skills. One person was a velodrome racer who would cycle away from banks. Another was a skydiver who would land on the top of buildings in cities.

I suck at cooking, but I got some staples down. If I can make one good meal a day I'm pretty content. I went home recently and was able to cook for my parents. I forgot how rewarding it felt to cook for other people.

Reflecting and listening. A lot has been unearthed this year. Inequity has been talked about on many platforms from social media, news articles, podcasts and classes. I've been thinking a lot about my own privilege. Who does my ignorance benefit?

What People Are Reading!

- Deem Journal: Designing for Dignity
- Who Builds Your Architecture? - Kadambari Baxi
- Emergent Strategy - adrienne maree brown
- www.failedarchitecture.com
- The Aesthetics of Equity - Craig Wilkins

What People Are Listening To!

- Cassius 1999 - Cassius
- Heaven Only Knows - Bob Moses
- Officer of Love - Caamp
- Ballgefluster - Thomas Dinger
- God Hour - Babyfather feat. Micachu
- Dream BabyDream - Suicide
- Shake It Off - Mariah Carey
- The Beginning - RuPaul

We're On a Road to Nowhere...

Eric Schultz

"Who remembers places?"

I'm sure you've heard it in advertisements or seen any number of related memes. But honestly the longer our current predicament lasts, the easier it's becoming to forget. As we've rearranged our bedrooms and kitchens into classrooms and home offices adopting to the "New Normal", we've questioned the meaning of essential.

What does this mean for the discipline of architecture and its bright-eyed aspiring practitioners? Here's a hint: start looking elsewhere. Our architectural training woefully under-prepares us in understanding the socio-economic relationships that make building possible. The discipline's long standing preoccupation with creating internal crises has spawned a discourse so myopic, that when an actual crisis emerges, we have the hubris to believe that it's architecture to the rescue. How did that work out for the modernists?

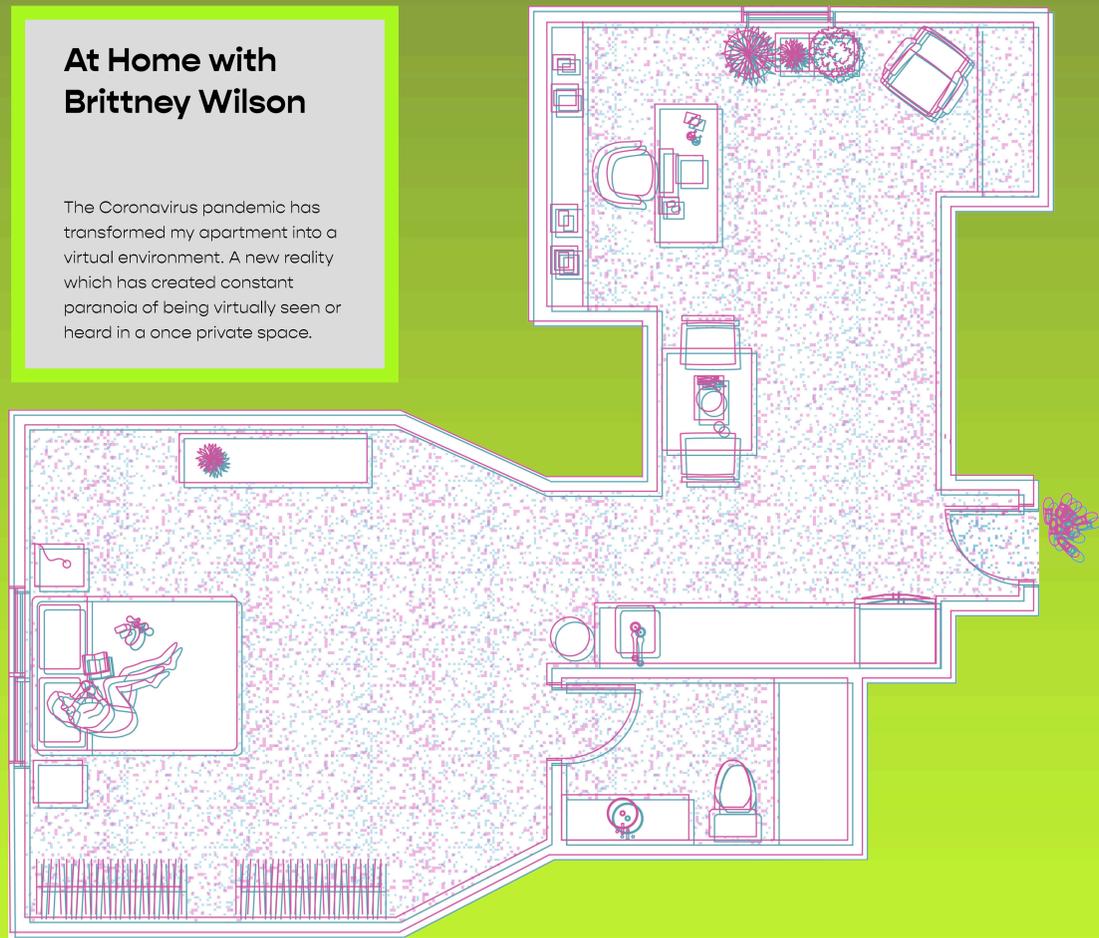
Architecture is one of the hardest hit industries during times of recession. From 2007-2011, the number of architectural positions in the United States decreased nearly 30%, disproportionately affecting women². Now I'm not advocating for dropping out or changing majors. In fact, design education gives us a hefty tool belt, including skills in graphic design, digital fabrication, materials science, historical research, and more. What I am saying is take stock of these skills. Figure out your interests and how you can develop a skill set geared towards them.

In April, KSA hosted a panel on navigating the job market during "uncertain times". On this panel were alumni in mostly senior level positions in architecture offices around Columbus. Not one participant came from outside of architectural practice. Their advice: be willing to relocate, be persistent, do something you might not like for a while. Sure I get it, these folks successfully weathered the storm and continued their upward trajectory in the field. Not everyone is so lucky. Not everyone has the ability to relocate, wait weeks or months between paychecks, or stand working in healthcare design.

Our design education teaches us how to be creative, improvise, and occasionally bullshit our way through various challenges. As we inch towards another round of portfolio reviews and internships, or more terrifyingly graduation and the real world, use these abilities to your advantage, either in architecture or elsewhere. We're going to have to.

At Home with Brittney Wilson

The Coronavirus pandemic has transformed my apartment into a virtual environment. A new reality which has created constant paranoia of being virtually seen or heard in a once private space.



At Home with Kaitlin Baker

Since the mandated lockdown, we have all found ourselves with more time and less motivation. Because I was quarantining in my apartment, I was inspired to draw my space. This gave others a personal look into my life with the hope of staying connected even if we needed to be apart.

¹ https://www.architectmagazine.com/aia-architect/aiafeature/how-many-architects-does-our-economy-need_0
² <https://www.architecture.com/-/media/GatherContent/Future-Trends-Survey-2011/Additional-Documents/December2011.pdf>