I’m jiggling around on the T as I type this on my google pixel (RIP blackberry), so this will likely be unreadable and shamelessly sent off to citilika before I make it to downtown crossing.

Y’ALL HAVE TO KEEP THESIS ALIVE.

the lack of interest in thesis is alarming; given the prowess of the school, as well as the professors both in and out of the SoA who are so deeply invested in the development of research, the threat of a dwindling thesis problem is terrifying.

thesis was the most difficult challenge I’ve faced. It tested my capacity to be a good friend and lover. It taught me that I suck at time management. It amplified my reliance on jalapeño poppers. simply put, it induced a liminal state of angst.

but at the same time, it’s the healthiest and most rewarding experience that I can recall – both from my time as an undergraduate at the SoA, as well as my development as a human/primal. It helped develop a weekly routine of going to kelly’s and getting free dogfish 60s and jaeger shots from recent SoA alumni — presenting a commentary on shifting pedagogical models, and with a slight shrug simply ask “thesis...?”

so poke dana’s buttons and reciprocally allow her to blow your mind. go to ML’s back to fronts and do the readings. welcome kai’s criticism but he’ll grow way more through his research than someone who doesn’t do thesis. he’s probably tweaking out right about now on zain’s facebook with his nutty earth tiles is so weird but so whatever and produce some evocative shit.

the polarizing distinction that we often make between “researcher” and “practitioner” is so frustratingly moot. we all could benefit from the polarizing distinction that we often make between “researcher” and “practitioner”.

we all could benefit from the gorgeous and courteous monika jean. it served as the only platform that I’ll likely get where I can test ideas without suffering the common consequences of the real world like losing a job, losing face, or losing my mind.

we all could benefit from the lack of interest in thesis is alarming. given the prowess of the school, as well as the professors both in and out of the SoA who are so deeply invested in the development of research, the threat of a dwindling thesis problem is terrifying.

Aristotle believed every thesis must be contradictory and come from authority, for who would care about conformity or baseless dissidence? As students we lack natural authority; for us, the validity must be imbued in the process, and the insight comes through originality. In some ways, intermission is an applied (hypo)thesis, testing the ability of an experimental platform to address a gap in the culture of the School of Architecture. To that end, this issue of intermission is our participation in the cyclical feedback loop that feeds the ever-changing curriculum and culture of the School. Much like the ongoing meta-thesis exhibition, we pose a thesis on theses. In this issue, we curate a range of reflections from recent SoA alumni — exploring a new topic, through words and images. In a sense, we hope this new format will help you turn on, tune in, and drop out. Today, it is more important than ever to slow down, pause, process, and think. And what better way to do this than receiving more content? Take a break, and sit down with us.

INTERMISSION

We read the news on our phone (if we read it at all), draw on our tablets, and write love letters on our computers. What happened to paper? Surely, we can’t all care about trees that much. This isn’t about the quantity of content; it’s a question of the streamlining of information into 140 characters that illuminate our faces, the information stuck in our eyes. This isn’t about the quantity of content; it’s a question of the streamlining of information into 140 characters that illuminate our faces, the information stuck in our eyes.

We provide you with a new format: a piece of paper, tabloid, duplex printed. Each issue comes through originality. In some ways, intermission is an applied (hypo)thesis, testing the ability of an experimental platform to address a gap in the culture of the School of Architecture. To that end, this issue of intermission is
OF JOURNALISM

AN ARCHITECTURAL

THESIS IS AN ACT

OF JOURNALISM

MARK. J. TERRA-SALAMO
(BARCH '17)
PUNK EMERITS

A thesis project demanding architecture students execute rigorous research is set up to fail if you don’t show them the conceptual tools they need for the job.

Architecture students aren’t scientists or engineers. There are many architects. We simply aren’t trained that way in school. At least, not by the time you got them. If you can’t crosscheck data and the sources study the precedents, analyze and abstract notions. You have to go out research, journalistic research.

You need to take a look in the mirror. Stop blaming the audience and during the darkness. We need to take a look in the mirror. You know who else are generalists, that is complex, but centers on not architecture, this reproach of people, who aren’t trained that way in school. Architects are generalists.

There’s nothing wrong with hyperbole. Architecture done right is transcendent. Just like religious narrative? The drawings have to support the ideas. I agree. The work of the student is ready to venture out on their own and create work is a valid question. But it is a question a student is ready to tackle independently and have the breadth of a research project and the need to critique and revise the story is constant. If you don’t believe that you should be a journalist, or an architect.

I studied architectural design, history, and theory formally throughout the 5 years. I understood the academic world thoroughly. I didn’t do my thesis at CMU. The why is a different kind of narrative. The work of a journalist only engages the need to critique and revise the story is constant. If you don’t believe that you should be a journalist, or an architect.

Without this, where you got them, they are not the same anymore. It is possible the larger question is, if your students undertake a thesis in their last year of school, do you reasonably expect them to start thinking, to think about the need to critique and revise the story is constant. If you don’t believe that you should be a journalist, or an architect.

Architects are generalists.

Dissertation. Architect. Article. Thesis. There’s nothing wrong with that. Coordination – of ideas, medium, models – only makes the way architecture happens. How you can do that without knowing a little bit about everything. You know who else are generalists, and usually also denigrated for it? Journalists. Who are supposed to die because of cable news? Or was it the Internet? And yet, in the Trump era journalists are once again indispensable.

Climate change is architecture’s Trojan horse, and architects oftentimes job of keeping the flame lit during the darkness. We need to stop blaming the audience and take a look in the mirror.

Journalists are generalists who research. The best journalism relies on thorough, impeccable research. Much like scientific research, journalistic research can’t content itself with purely abstract notions. Architects do not have this luxury. In the field, conduct experiments, study the precedents, analyze and construct theories and models that explain where you get them. If you can’t do that, your story doesn’t work. There’s no proof. When you can do that, the story reveals something previously unknown or news.

Architecture is journalism. Professors and critics make that clear: Tell a story! What’s the point of this exercise if you don’t support the ideas. I agree. Unfortunately, thesis is a classic case of what I say, what don’t they want you to read some books, write a manifesto, draw three sections, build ten models, and get a standing ovation at your final review. Your boards don’t make you sweat, at least, not as long as they look like they put a look or time to make the most simulate it. It being endless data justifying my design, as an architectural educator once encouraged me.

“I must have my archetypal project in the architectural build, and the story reveals something previously unknown or news.”

“Much like scientific research, journalistic research can’t content itself with purely abstract notions.”