

Neeraj Bhatia
(THE OPEN WORKSHOP)

The lines drawn on land to claim ownership and demarcate property have profoundly shaped divisions between race, class, ecologies, and communities. In the United States, land has become so deeply embedded in economic and social policy that property ownership often functions as a substitute for a diminishing social safety net. Rather than reducing inequality, these systems reinforce existing disparities, embedding them within the built environment and the institutions that govern it.

Against this backdrop, the commons and practices of commoning offer a lens through which to reconsider how resources, care, and power might be more equitably distributed. Common Forms / Forms of Commoning explores how the territory, neighborhood, block, and home can be reimagined to support more collective ways of living, sharing, and governing. This lecture presents a series of projects developed by [THE OPEN WORKSHOP](#) that investigate practices of resistance, decommodification, alternative value systems, re-graining, and framing to propose more equitable forms of land stewardship and resource distribution. Together, they advance architectures that cultivate solidarity, expand community control, and strengthen systems of mutual care. Rather than treating property as the primary framework for organizing society, these projects ask how architecture can help create and sustain the commons in response to the social and ecological precarity of the present.

NEERAJ BHATIA is an architect, urban designer, and educator working at the intersection of politics and architecture. He is founder of THE OPEN WORKSHOP, a transcalar design-research office examining the negotiation between architecture, territory, and collectivity. Bhatia is an Associate Professor and Director of the M.S. in Architecture and Urban Design at Columbia GSAPP. His distinctions include the Lily Auchincloss Rome Prize, Canadian Prix de Rome, Emerging Voices Award, Architectural League Young Architects Prize, Emerging Leaders Award, and Fulbright, and multiple ACSA awards for design and research.

CULTURES OF ASSEMBLY
 Chair of the City of Esch
 Prof. Dr. Markus Miessen
 University of Luxembourg
www.culturesofassembly.org

24, Rue du Brill
 L-4041 Esch-sur-Alzette

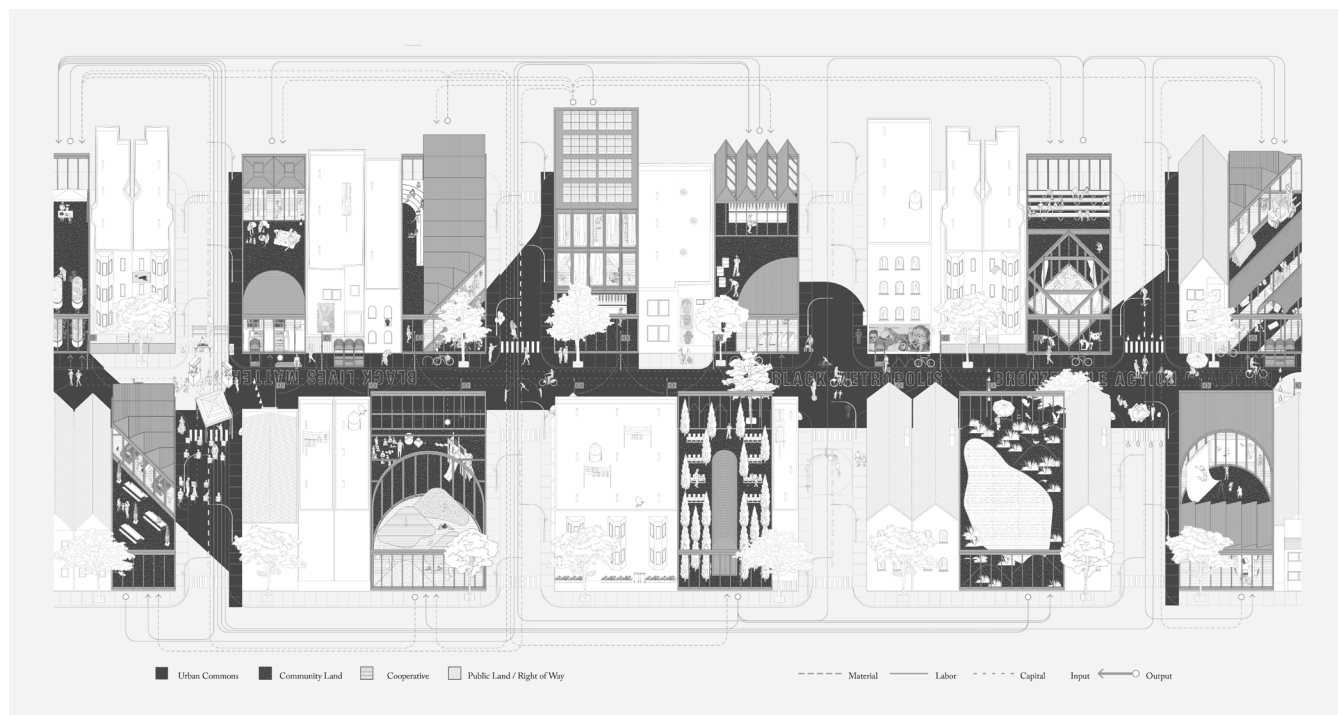
Team:
 Markus Miessen, César Reyes, Ena Kukić,
 Gustav Nielsen, Kristina Shatokhina,
 Michaela Prunotto

Associated with the
 Master in Architecture Programme
 Department of Geography and
 Spatial Planning
 University of Luxembourg
www.masterarchitecture.lu

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The Center Won't Hold, THE OPEN WORKSHOP, 2021. Produced for the Chicago Architecture Biennial