INTRODUCTION:
The connection between architecture and its site is a critically important relationship. Historically the condition of construct to site has been generically referred to as context. Response to context can take on many forms. Some argue it should be a condition of mimicry, treating the new construct as a compositional exercise in duplication of symbols and ornament. Others believe that context allows for a reinterpretation while acknowledging and respecting the existing forms and the time in which they were designed and constructed. Both views are rather simplistic, ignoring many other options for dealing with the notion of site and its particular intricacies.

Your instructors would argue that it is possible to be contemporary and appropriate without being disrespectful of context, but it takes hard work. Through rigorous analysis of existing conditions, a detailed assessment can be created to understand the existing parameters. Without this analysis, it is easy to become victim to creating a meaningless response or a hollow stylistic symbol. Thoughtful response demands dealing with issues of space, volume, scale, texture, circulation, materiality, environment, and other intangibles often overlooked by the casual observer. Often, contrast is realized as an appropriate response in carefully calculated forms, determined by an astute analysis of the essential issues of the problem and program. It is unacceptable to use lackluster conditions in the context as an excuse to compromise beliefs or intentions.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
As first year design students, your lives are in a strange state of flux. The transition from high school to college, the steep learning curve of a design student, and other perpetually changing life events are all factors in that equation. Most upper level students are unaware of who you are, or simply view you as a juvenile playing with string & charcoal. They also have to be convinced that you can ‘measure up’. You need to be more than an annoyance. We will be taking advantage of your obscurity and lack of respect throughout this project. You will be intervening on and in the building through the design of an anthropometric composition that responds to your unique site specific analysis. Your paraSITEs will be foreign, feed off their location, and then disappear as quickly as they arrived. They must be well calculated, intentional, precise responses.

Your paraSITE must engage the human body in several distinct ways. Initially, your intervention must be carried to and installed at your site under your team’s physical power. (Remember that less is more. The smaller, surgically precise offerings are almost always the most successful.) Once located, it must engage passers-by in a distinct and meaningful anthropometric way. Visitors may be drawn to sit/kneel/lay/stand
on/near/over it, use it in some way to frame a view, or any combination or variation of the concepts listed in the project. The body relating element(s) of your design must be clear, engaging, intentional, and significant. When a parasite attaches itself to a host, it does so in a manner to enhance its own life and meaning. Yours should do the same.

The connection of your paraSITE to the host (building 05) must be strong, elegant, and intentional. Unlike the aforementioned parasite, yours may NOT permanently damage, alter, or mar any site IN ANY MANNER.

Your paraSITE must be detailed and constructed with museum-quality craft using real materials. (Don’t forget about material re-use. Repurposing old materials or planning on your chosen items next life is always beneficial.) Your task is to engage and challenge the site, thoughtfully considering the placement of your intervention as a manifestation of the analysis you have previously performed. This is NOT what YOU want to do, this should be what your SITE wants its paraSITE to be. As mentioned before, this project should be seen as containing myriad opportunities rather than problems. Detailing, connection, and correlation possibilities abound and are to be used to exemplify the relationship of your design and the context in which it dwells. In the end, your design should in some manner address each of the following conditions/agendas:

- SITE
- TECTONICS + MATERIALITY
- ANTHROPOMETRICS
- PHENOMENOLOGY
- SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

This project will develop your abilities in the expression of tectonic language, intentionality in siting, spatial (re)definition, the use of effective teamwork, and the comprehension and application of anthropometric data allowing for human interaction.
PROCESS OF EXPLORATION:
Once your detailed analysis has been collected, shared, and discussed, you will pursue design alternatives, both individually and as a team, to meaningfully engage the site as well as the body. Design options will be visualized through physical and digital models, diagrams, drawings, sketches, etc. Your team will ultimately be required to synthesize the options and formal direction for physical execution. This does not mean that one person’s ideas are ‘picked’ and the others discarded. The best final solution will most likely lie in a collaborative effort that uses strengths of each team member’s different investigations. Be careful not to allow this to be a condition of compromise that ends up being the lowest common denominator. Remember that bigger does NOT equate to better. Thoughtful responsive intention should be your goal.

The final complete project of this term will be the construction of the paraSITE. This will be done together, taking advantage of each team member’s individual strengths to work effectively. The paraSITE should be finely detailed, and may not rely on glue as a primary means of connection. i.e. the details are as important as the whole. All materials are to be finished and completely dry before installation.

The maximum weight of your completed project is to be 100 lbs. There will be a weigh-in of all projects before install day.

FORMAT:
Each team will explore and advance (3) discrete ideas for review Friday based on the above criteria.