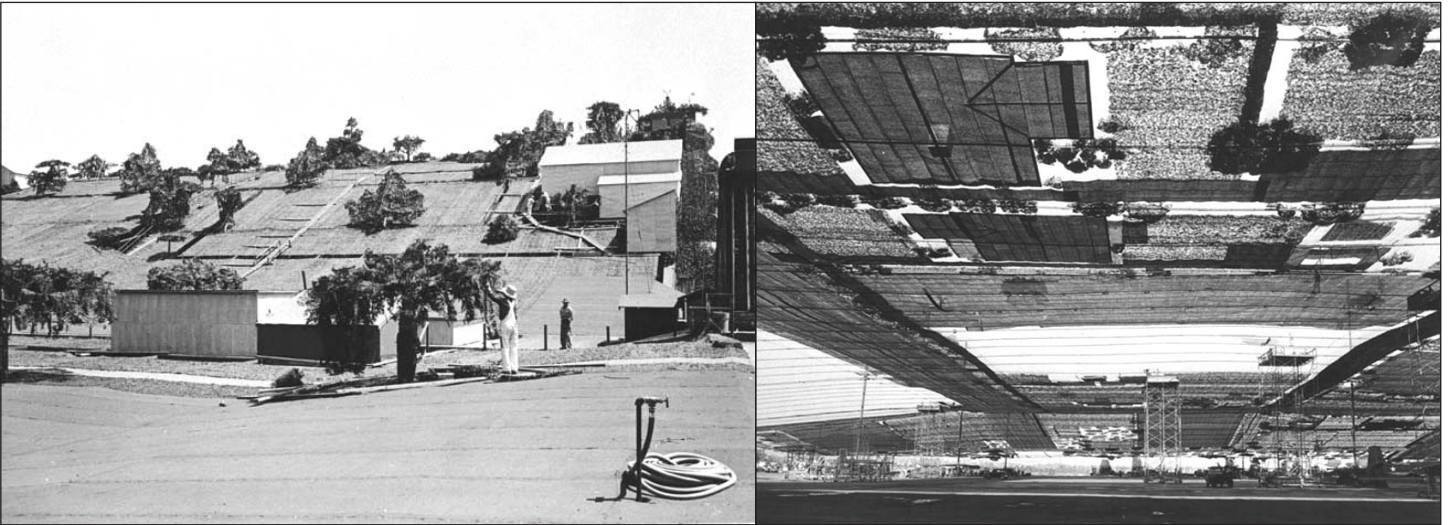


ECOSYSTEMS OF SECURITY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOYCE HWANG

ARC 491 / 591. MONDAYS 6 TO 8:40 PM. DIEFENDORF 207.



Camouflage efforts at Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, California
Photographs taken during the early 1940's by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

How do architecture and urbanism respond to issues of fear? How does paranoia inform strategies for creating environments? How can we envision our ecosystems – that is, the interdependence of natural and artificial ecologies – to respond to human desires for security?

From preoccupations with surveillance in the design of prisons, housing projects and neighborhoods, to modernism's obsessions with combatting contagions, the notion of fear has played an instrumental role in the construction of architectural ideologies. Now at the start of the 21st century, architects and planners face a pressing set of anxiety-driven concerns which have started – and will continue – to shape the disciplines' productive tendencies. Examples include the increasing frequency of natural (and human-made) disasters, the rapid depletion of our natural resources, the ever-increasing threat to food security, and the continuing threat to national security.

This seminar will posit that “security” today must be addressed at an ecosystemic level, considering not only the familiar substance of architecture, but also the milieu of culture and nature. In this seminar, we will examine a series of projects and texts, both visionary and pragmatic, to focus on identifying fears and phobias which are influencing architectural discourse, and analyzing ecologies which are affecting/being affected by desires for security.