Decolonizing architecture practices starts with reckoning with the historical roots and steadfast legacy of colonization to resurface narratives that have been erased and forgotten. As we face the unsettling dysfunction in our climate and society, now more than ever requires a collective investment of learning, reflection, community, and the deep belief that change is possible. It underscores a critical need to reexamine and redesign existing design processes away from predominant mindsets and narratives and reflect on the unreconciled impacts of colonization.

This seminar will begin with researching hidden histories and narratives of the land, and those most impacted and harmed by racism and colonization. We identify and confront our personal biases that have maintained systems of dominance, while challenging formulaic design processes. Interrupting personal and societal biases, we investigate alternative methodologies that center care, healing and reparations.

This seminar will include research, required readings, visiting lecturers and outdoor field work. We will achieve personal translations of belonging, care and healing with the support of our collective classroom community.

“We hone our skills of naming and analyzing the crises. I learned in school how to deconstruct - but how do we move beyond our beautiful deconstructions? Who teaches us to reconstruct?”

adrienne maree brown

Radical (Re)Design
ARCH 407 / 507
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Tu/Th 1:30-2:50 pm / 231 LA

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Image Source: https://native-land.ca