

POSTNATURAL STUDIES

A course by the Institute for Postnatural Studies

HEAD Geneva, MAIA Master of Arts in Interior Architecture
From October 5th to October 21st 2022



Postnatural Studies:

Postnatural Studies is presented as a conceptual frame of thinking by means of which to generate a critical practice toward new contemporary interiors. The object of the course would delve into putting into crisis the shared and shaped imaginary and concept of “what is natural”, applying new perspectives on Botany and coexistence, thus guiding both the theoretical and material outcomes of this course.

By looking at crucial aspects of our recent history through the lens of contemporary artistic production, this course will aim toward the proposition of new spaces for coexistence, materially and conceptually, not only with other species but also with other entities such as research institutions, technology, and domestic and professional interiors.

About us:

The Institute for Postnatural Studies is a center for artistic experimentation from which to explore and problematize postnature as a framework for contemporary creation. Founded in 2020, it is conceived as a platform for critical thinking, a network that brings together artists and researchers concerned about the issues of the global ecological crisis through experimental formats of exchange and the production of open knowledge. From a multidisciplinary approach, the Institute develops long-term research focused on issues such as ecology, coexistence, politics, and territories. These lines of investigation take different shapes and formats, including seminars, exhibitions, and residencies as spaces for academic and artistic experimentation.

The Institute for Postnatural Studies works at the intersection between Spain and international practices and debates. From its headquarters in Madrid, a 300m² warehouse with a workshop, residency spaces, and shared workspaces, invites artists, researchers, and cultural agents to create dialogues with alumni and the broader public.

In parallel, the Institute has created the publishing platform Cthulhu Books.

Lectures:



Pablo Ferreira Navone

Architect

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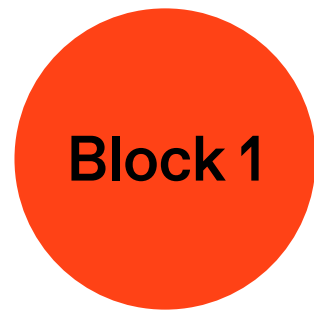
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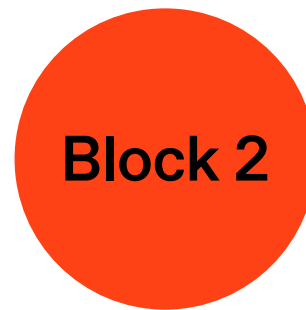
Course structure:

The course will be structured in three blocks that will run from a theoretical frame of thinking to a physical presentation of the devices, artifacts, or prototypes developed between the students.



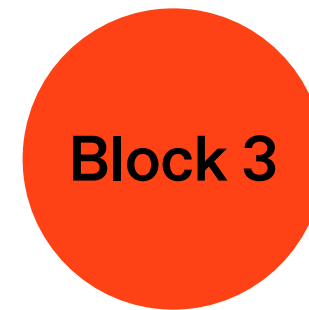
**Postnatural Studies:
From botanical spaces
to expanded bodies.**

Oct. 5th - 6th



**Research-based
design**

Oct. 11th - 12th



**Prototypes as
theoretical discourses**

Oct. 19th - 20th

Block 1

**Postnatural Studies:
From botanical
spaces to expanded
bodies.**

Oct. 5th - 6th

The first block of the course will dive into a genealogy of theoretical approaches to Botany, the history of greenhouses, embodied knowledge, and critical visual analysis. These theoretical approaches will be achieved through lectures, guided meditation, and a lectured visit to the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques. Through the creation of dialogues and discussion, the course will give shape to a production based-research group, aiming to propose new ways of relation with vegetation, both in our domestic interiors and professional research spaces.

Deliverable:

A written scenario for each group, that will be the brief for the rest of the course.

Block 2

Research-based design

After the development of a conceptual brief, the second block of the course will be dedicated to the translation of a theoretical scenario into a series of material propositions. Students research groups will materialize their bodies of the investigation into prototypes or props by exercising critical design and production.

Deliverable:

A thoughtful design suited for products consisting of drawings, sketches, 3D, or any functional material.

Oct. 11th - 12th

Block 3

Prototypes as theoretical discourses

The last block of the course will focus on completing the prototypes, their correct documentation, and their presentation in a collective exhibition. We will produce not only the physical object itself but also an accompanying list of documentation and material that will look forward to creating and divulging a theoretical discourse based on the design and production exercise.

Deliverable:
Final presentation of the prototype.

Oct. 19th - 20th

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