



MAPPING THE MARGINAL ROLE OF DESIGN IN IMMIGRANT DETENTION IN TEXAS 1950s-PRESENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2017 | 6:00 P.M. | MBSC BALLROOM

Texas currently has **26** detention centers, **5** prisons, and **2** county jails used to detain migrants in connection with immigration proceedings or immigration related crimes; in 1960 the state had only **1** immigrant detention center.

This talk maps the growth of Texas' detention infrastructure in relation to changing immigration policy and the privatization of incarceration. It also addresses the role of design in the production of detention space throughout the last forty years. A material history of immigrant detention centers reveals the absence of a comprehensive vision for immigrant detention as distinct from the U.S. penal system, normalizing the use of "non-normative" prison environments for America's newest arrivals.



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Sarah Lopez, a built environment historian and migration scholar, is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Lopez' 2015 book *The Remittance Landscape: The Spaces of Migration in Rural Mexico and Urban USA* (University of Chicago Press) received the Spiro Kostof Book Award from the Society of Architectural Historians in 2017. It addresses the impact of migrant remittances—dollars earned in the U.S. and sent to families and communities in Mexico—on the architecture and landscape of rural Mexico. Currently, she is researching the architecture of immigrant detention facilities in Texas and the relationship between US-Mexico migration and the development of an informal binational construction industry on both sides of the border.



This Winchell lecture is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Dr. Danielle Battisti, dbattisti@unomaha.edu