The Ecology of Building Materials

Tuesday/Thursday 8:30-9:50am
Prerequisites: ARCH 4/570 or instructor’s permission
3 credits (option for +1 credit by advance arrangement*)
*Fulfills Advanced Technology Seminar requirement

Ecology of Building Materials is an advanced technology seminar for advanced majors in Architecture and for others by permission of the instructor. This is a research seminar for the development of a body of work that describes the life cycle ecosystem context of major construction materials. The seminar will be structured with 1) reading and discussion to explore the theoretical context of material research (Manuel DeLanda, The New Materiality; Jane Bennett, Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things; Dolphijn, Rick and Iris van der Tuin, New Materialism Interviews & Cartographies; Alaimo, Stacy, and Susan J. Hekman, Material Feminisms; Blain Brownell, Matter in the Floating World), 2) collaborative research to document the geospatial and ecosystem context of material life cycles, and 3) architectural site analysis and mapping for description of the expanded contexts of material impact. There is the option for a day-long field trip on Saturday May 14th.