The studio embraces the idea of entanglements, that complex web of relationships between us and all things through the exploration and development of an outdoor farm school. The entanglements are many - old and young, outside and inside, farm and water, soil, sunlight, shadow, air, plants, insects, animals. The outdoor farm school brings school children and retired folks together to grow, tend, cook, and share food. The settings for these activities encourages an architecture that invites the unexpected or unforeseen, spaces activated at varying times by the warmth of the sun, a light summer breeze, or the scent of flowers in bloom. David Leatherbarrow writes, ‘When the building is freed from technological and aesthetic intentionalities, we discover its lateral connections to an environmental and social milieu that are not of anyone’s making, still less designed or planned. And it is precisely these connections that animate its “performativity,” even if they cause the building’s work to resist both conceptual mastery and exhaustive description. The point to be stressed is the building’s eccentricity, its existance outside itself, for its behaviour testifies to a constitutional weakness at its center, a negativity at its heart, because it must wait for its circumstances to give it what it lacks - light, air, human events. Still, what the environment offers is always somewhat different from what was expected. The building’s internal disequalibrium obliges it to accept into its makeup conditions over which it has no control.’ from ‘Architecture Oriented Otherwise’, chapter 2. Unscripted Performances, page 62.

The studio is speculative, yet takes its point of departure from the UBC Farm Intergenerational Landed Learning Project, which teams cross generations of school children, elderly, and university students to farm sustainably. The projects will be situated at UBC Farm plus take into consideration the adjacent broader context of Wesbrook Place, a growing hub of accommodations, retail, community centre, and secondary school. The neighbourhood plan for Westbrook Place calls for a future elementary school, which we will reimagine as the outdoor farm school.

The entanglements are set around occupiable territories at three scales of room, detail, building.

a1. threshold - 2.5 weeks
a2. covering - 2.5 weeks
b. entanglements - 8 weeks

Individual work for the first project, with either individual or teams of two for the remaining.

Guests will join us for reviews.

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grow, tend, cook, share

grow, tend, cook, share

Gando Primary School 2001/ Diebedo Francis Kere

Gando Primary School 2001/ Diebedo Francis Kere

ventilated covering

ventilated covering

Dominus Winery 1997/ Herzog & deMeuron

entanglements of stone, shadow, light

entanglements of stone, shadow, light

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