Presentation Title: Wandering Wardrobe, cross-scalar textiles.

Abstract Text:

Gottfried Semper considered textiles and skins to be the first acts of architecture. Textiles, in the form of curtains, rugs, upholstery or clothes, surround, cover and dress both our bodies and the spaces we inhabit. Wandering Wardrobe is a design research project that examines the envelope function that textiles play to cover the human body and architecture. Is there a garment that buildings and people can share? What kind of cross-scalar size suit would this be?

We cover our bodies with clothes to embellish them and protect us from the elements. Buildings can be seen as a form of garment that gives shelter to our activities. Clothes, curtains and buildings are overlapping envelopes that surround us. What kind of tissue can connect these different layers? Wandering Wardrobe is a bond that physically links our bodies to the space and the architecture we occupy. While empowering the public to transform the space around them, it prioritizes the human body as an active performer, and a generator of space as it manipulates a light, mobile architecture. Evoking the daily circulation of clothes within our closets, Wandering Wardrobe is perpetually reorganizing itself.

The first objective of this session is to present to an audience of design field academics and practitioners Wandering Wardrobe in the context of a selection of projects that interrogate the role of textiles performing as spatial and body envelopes. The goal, would be to reflect on: (1) the existing tradition and continued potential for design exploration residing among the “blurred lines” between clothing, drapery and architecture; and (2) the opportunities for disciplinary challenge and exchange in connecting experimental installation exercises and Interior Design professional practice.
Structure model mimics lightweight and flexible properties of 19th century dresses made out of whale bone or baleen.

Vertical structure: "zig-zag profile" steel plate members. Horizontal structure: PVC pipes of 1" diameter. The PVC pipes have certain flexibility that allow for users to move the curtain.

Detail: PVC pipe meeting steel plate in pinned connection.