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There are three important ideas that form the conceptual frame of the thesis: the first is the Anthropocene, the idea that since human life began, our species has interfered with the earth to such an extent that new geological conditions have emerged. We have transformed the earth's geomorphology, its surface, atmosphere and climate so radically that scientists have named a new geological era, the Anthropocene – a complex technical system of energy, material and information flows that we barely understand; the second idea is that buildings, infrastructure, spaces, cities, urban systems are intensities within the information flow mentioned above; the third idea is that Architecture and Urbanism are deeply tied up with geology and follows geo-logics. Buildings and Cities are geological agents that mobilize geological matter – Earth, Air, Water, Fire. The elements relate us to nature as a physical phenomenon that can be experienced with the senses and is therefore directly connected with architecture, which addresses the real construction of the world, the alchemic operation that turns concepts into material.

How can this intimacy be exploited through architecture? How can design intervene strategically and instrumentally reshape or redirect flows of geological matter and energy in its fundamental form, i.e. the elements? The elements, which are comprised of matter and energy, relate us to nature and geological context as a physical phenomenon that can be experienced with senses. The design proposes the library of Elements – Earth, Air, Water, Fire. The spaces will act as conduit for the elements, mobilize the elements and bring them to presence, curating a sequential journey and alchemic process which will also generate various programs that are functional, experiential and spiritual.

Seeing the Unseen
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Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Core Studio II
*Library for the Illiterate*
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