

Political Turns

From Spaces of Detention to Spaces of Consumption in Montevideo, Uruguay

South America is on the eve of another significant political turn. Right-wing populism has returned to the foreground of political life in this part of the world. Traditional architectural history has addressed such turns by studying buildings associated with regimes that are emblematic of specific political eras or the cult of personality of leaders. Instead of fetishizing architecture that symbolizes right-wing populism, this pedagogical proposal connects the urban effects of contemporary politics with the historical transformations of two quotidian buildings and their respective sites in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Site 1. From tuberculosis colony and site of the *Fermin Ferreira Hospital* to the *Montevideo Shopping Center*. The first shopping center in the history of Uruguay.

Site 2. From prison and site of the largest national prison escape to the *Punta Carretas Shopping Center*. The second shopping center in the history of Uruguay.

Pairing an architecture/urban history seminar with a study abroad opportunity in South America is the pedagogical intent of Political Turns. The initial stages of the proposal aim to reveal the physical consequences of an invisible, non-linear political history, and the enduring effects of the violence associated with overlooked places of ubiquitous consumption and forgotten detention.

Bio

Federico is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture (DoArch) at South Dakota State University, where he helped start the first professional architecture program in South Dakota. Before joining DoArch, he practiced as an intern architect in Minneapolis, Portugal, and New York, designing and building large-scale projects on four continents. Federico's research and scholarship focus on the architectural relationship between technology and politics. His work on the late Uruguayan engineer Eladio Dieste has been widely published and presented at national and international conferences. Federico is co-director of LAB-OR, a design practice in Brookings, South Dakota.