

## Current Research:

### Neuroscience, Craftsmanship & Doing Things by Hand

In June 2019, I was awarded the Pillar's Scholarship from the NewSchool of Architecture + Design to do research in neuroscience and craftsmanship and doing design work by hand while attending the Compostela de Santiago architecture course.

This research is developing a hypothesis that relates to the course work in Spain which includes the relevance of mirror neurons and how users empathize and feel the built environment. Analyzing movement involved in developing hand drawings, carving or sculpting will be essential. Having a better understanding of how the creative processes develops affects the final result, will be helpful in making better design decisions including the design process itself.

This ongoing research will conclude in the coming new year in January 2020 with a presentation to the San Diego Association of Architecture and NewSchool of Architecture + Design

## Design Project:

### Pilgrim Lodging in Santiago de Compostela

The architecture course of Santiago de Compostela has students focus on developing a design proposal for specific projects requested by the mayor of the city.

This year the request was to design temporary lodging for the thousands of pilgrims who travel along the Camino de Santiago. The site was an oak forest which is vulnerable to being cut down if an identity and use was not given to it.

To provide a solution, my project focused on gaining an understanding of the local environment, its people, history and culture. The results are modular like units that could be constructed by hand with

the use of joinery for the structural elements. This eliminates the need for extra materials and tools. The parts only need to be pieced together. The oak wood sleeping units open up on all sides and have perforated openings to allow natural light in while providing ventilation without compromising protection from the weather and humidity, thus avoiding the need for extra material such as glass or other transparent material. The units are raised on granite stones keeping with the traditions of the local architecture and garden landscapes. These granite stones are traditionally used to protect the structure from humidity while blending in with the natural environment. When the units are not in place, in the off season for pilgrims, these granite stones offer spaces for sitting and picnicking, a common way the community enjoys the outdoors and socializing with each other.