Black Sheep Detroit
Embracing Individuality in the Post-industrial Landscape

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Left: View looking north up the Dequindre Cut, Detroit.
A Point of Transition

The Globe building is situated between Detroit’s urban center and its shrinking neighborhoods, most of which are growing more rural each day.

With all of this open land and little city finance to maintain properties, grasses grow tall and neighborhoods continue to vanish. Utilizing sheep and goats as a means to maintain this land and manage that public space belonging to the Riverfront Conservancy, offers an alternative solution a longstanding problem.

Goat and sheep migration in and around the city behave as attractors for the new Globe building: an urban farm for veterinary research and the production of milk and cheeses to compliment the area just south of the Eastern Market.
St. Aubin’s, Detroit Today

Projections into the future as trends continue
Restore Roof
Maintain Shade and protect against rain and snow.

Use Existing Structure
Structure provides good framework structure

Locate Core of Building and Maintain Facade and
Remove all Windows
Increased ventilation through building and a central focus.

Combine Circulation Paths Around Core
Publick paths offer views to ground floor while circulating through building above.

Cut and Fill for Public Infrastructure
As far back as the dry dock, the Globe has had a long history with ground manipulation. Cut and fill methods offer a unique opportunity.

Stretch of Detroit Riverfront: The Globe as hub between the Conrail Exposition Spur, the Eastern Market, and Belle Isle. All three locations are situated within less than a three mile radius from the site, offering ideal daily migration distances to sheep and goats.
Milking Parlor

Both the milking parlor and the Dequindre Cut serve as precedents for ground removal and the manipulation of the ground plane.

Both cases reposition the view of the user, altering their sense of vision, providing a different position from which to view our surroundings.
Sheep Dip

The sheep dip serves as an ending to a traditional sheep chute, where the sheep are fenced in single file and led into a pool of water for cleaning. The dimensions of this dip, the sloped walls, the narrowness, and ground alteration offer ways of thinking about how people may move through this building, as well as sheep.
BELOW GRADE

A tunnel beneath the existing Globe building serves to create a direct connection between the Dequindre Cut and the riverfront. For those not wishing to visit the farm, the new cut serves to create a more direct route in either direction.

While the passage passes beneath the building, it is not fully enclosed. Air is free to pass through the building and up through its central core. Drainage is directed through this passage which is sloped towards the riverfront.

The blue represents an enclosed/human environment.
Ground Level (Sheep held on Site)

The ground level is opened up, creating an environment that showcases both the production of milk and cheese, and the raising of sheep and goats.

Production takes the form of exhibition, as the public is able to engage with the processes involved in with maintaining livestock.

The blue represents an enclosed/human environment, including milking and cheese making infrastructure, as well as recreation and veterinary locations.

The red represents the areas in which the sheep kept on site cycle through daily.
Ground Level (Sheep Held in Transition)

Unlike the sheep held on site, these sheep do not need to be milked. They are the caretakers of public spaces, migrating along the river front and up the Dequindre Cut.

These sheep come in through the gathering pen, enter the chute, and are directed to a holding pen. They also utilize the sheep dip during warm months, less as a means to delice, and more as a means to stay cool and act as demonstration to the visiting public.

Ground Level (Goats)

Goats are utilized to maintain the northern end of the Dequindre Cut where vegetation is more diverse and rugged, while the sheep are left to maintain the grasses along the riverfront and out to Belle Isle.
Second Floor (Housing, Workspace, and Retail)

The Second floor serves as the primary entrance for employee/resident housing while providing ample space for a number of research and educational components tied into the program of the farm. Employees are affiliated with the University and local communities, both of whom work for temporary periods of time.

The enclosed areas are bordered by a public ramp which frames an open floor below, offering constant views to the animals and production of Cheesa and milk below.
Third Floor and Rooftop (Housing and Extended Park)

This level primarily serves as an extension of the park to the east. The two public ramps entering the building from both the riverfront and the Dequindre Cut meet in the middle of the building and direct both parties to the partially enclosed rooftop.

The various temporary Residents of the Farm have direct access to this space from the loft of their respective apartments.
List of Source Materials

Flexible Living (pages 3-39)

Re(Industrial)mediation (pages 41-83)

Social Production (pages 85-129)
Black Sheep Detroit (pages 131-165)

Scraptastic (pages 207-245)

CD (pages 357-395)

Writing Detroit (pages 397-443)

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