

## Methodology:

How could focused temporary design interventions at specific stages pre and post vacancy catalyze and influence the reassimilation process to achieve a particular result? How could this redefine the public perception of disused buildings and derelict landscapes? How could temporary urbanism in the form of low cost, low risk on-site transient building utilizing recovered materials serve as a way to provoke urban reinvestment? This thesis will identify key intervention points over this crucial vacancy timeline that provide the maximum influence over a vacant lot's future.

A disused building has many different possible fates. This can begin to be visualized as a decision tree containing the key actors that dictate the possible events for a particular site. For example, a site could be renovated to modern habilitation standards and then reoccupied, or it can be taken down via either demolition or deconstruction to make way for new stock. The thesis is comprised of three main parts. The research, site selection, and intervention. The investigations into literature pertaining to the subjects of vacancy, waste, architecture, and landscape has pointed to a unique perspective on the phase changes of urban spaces through time. By focusing in on the initial point of vacancy within this timeline, effective investigations can be made into the viability of strategic urban interventions playing a role in the intricacies of the urban context.

Through the identification of the 'initial phase change' as the probable governor of change within the system of vacancy, three idealized types of vacant parcels are identified as key conditions within the city of Buffalo. The first type is a recent foreclosure, marking the beginning of the vacancy process. The second type of idealized site is a site that has been vacated 1-2 years, marking the midpoint of the vacancy transition process. The third site is one that has been demolished within the last 4 years, marking the end of the initial phase change. These emblematic sites were further investigated through a process of empirical and qualitative research to identify agents, catalysts, points of risk, and potential for influence. Three real world sites were then selected for further research as prime manifestations of these characteristics. A comprehensive site analysis along with a critical look at the larger scale urban context of the site will work to identify the key components of the site that point towards specific design interventions targeted at the critical liminal state contained within the initial phase change.

The interventions will consider the variables and potential needs among other factors to address the issue the critical inception point of vacancy specific to the site. Parts of the process may be translatable to

other urban areas, however due to the highly contextual nature of the designs, they themselves will likely not be directly translatable to other urban areas or even other sites within the city of Buffalo.