**Spring 2023, Elective Seminar *Brave New Worlds: Utopian Thinking in Urban Planning* (Instructor: Lidia Klein)**

**ARCH 5204/4204 / ARTH 3001**

**Thursdays, 11:30am - 2:00pm**

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**Premise:** In this seminar we will examine forms of utopian thinking in urban planning. By studying examples across time periods (from Plato’s *Republic* to the Metaverse), genres (from Archigram’s collages to films such as *Black Panther*) and locations both real (from Disney’s EPCOT in Orlando, Florida to Ciudad Abierta in Valparaiso, Chile) and imagined, the course will examine the roles the built environment plays in utopian concepts. We will also consider ways in which utopia—an ideal community or society—can overlap with or turn into its counterpart—dystopia.

**Course Objectives:** (a) To better understand the role that utopian thinking has played in envisioning architecture, cities, and society; and (b) to better understand the role of the built environment in utopian concepts.

**Method:** This course is organized as a combination of discussions around assigned readings and films, presentations, and lectures. Over the course of the semester, we will engage with a variety of materials, such as films, design projects, and works of literature and philosophy, but the students should be aware that this is a reading intensive class: students need to be conversant in readings assigned every week.