

Sarah Keeling

My work re-represents modern everyday landscapes as a way to frame the question; what is our relationship to the built environment we live in? With this, I am thinking of floor plans and permutations of the single family home, about the shape and organization of neighborhoods, the proximity of work and residential space in downtown settings, of cubicles and office parks, of small towns, large towns, strip malls and of parking garages. All the while questioning, are we shaping our environment or is it shaping us? In some ways it's a cyclical process. We design these spaces, inhabit them, tear them down and rebuild only to begin again.

These areas are constructed to fulfill a purpose and my interest lies in examining the rationale behind their forms. I am curious what can be revealed about us through studying the structures created to facilitate particular functions, such as living space, places of work or commercial centers. Perhaps something is there that otherwise goes unstated, due to the fact these aspects are so heavily engrained in our society that they become simultaneously invisible and obvious? Is something altered, implied or possibly even transmitted in the translation from the originating "need" to the structural response intended as its answer?

I am questioning our reaction to the design of these spaces and how they may influence our interactions by attempting to shift the perception of them by engaging with a cultural understanding. Through this process, my hope is to work in between ideas what is actually experienced and the perception of what "should" be experienced.