

Editorial

The Call for Work

On May 5th, 2020, police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on the neck of George Floyd for at least 7 minutes and 46 seconds. Despite Floyd's body lying unresponsive for 1 minute and 53 seconds, officer Chauvin persisted. George Floyd went into cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. He had allegedly used a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill to buy cigarettes. This was not the first state-perpetrated murder of a person of color, but the initial outrage and subsequent demand for change has been at a scale seen seldom throughout history. A national swell to defund the police, surrounding the assertion that Black lives matter, has brought a newfound level of scrutiny to the police force, jail and prison system, and the systemic racism and inequities in this country.

Isolation can be defined by the distinct experience of "otherness". It describes the experience of incarceration. It contains every instance of discrimination. It embodies the final moments of George Floyd and every murder

before him. It is in Jim Crow laws, segregation, redlining, and every other divisive tool used to diminish community power. It is in the systems of interstates, highways, and railroads that systematically separate by race and income. Isolation can call to mind desolate imagery or a solitary figure, but should also be associated with crowded prisons or long voting lines in Black neighborhoods. Isolation as otherness is a lens through which we can tear out the roots of structures of prejudice and injustice. It lays bare the systems and institutions whose foundations need not be salvaged as they were built on the sands of division. It asks not only that we reconcile where we have been, but more importantly that we have the courage to imagine where we must go next.

Telesis: Isolation is a platform to discuss the systemic change required - at both the infrastructural and social level - to dismantle the equally systemic injustice and inequality. Previous editions have remained philosophical or theoretical in nature; now more than ever, the editors at Telesis believe such a luxury cannot be afforded if we are to be the voice of a new generation in architecture. Design Against [a previous issue of Telesis] asked its authors to be bold in their convictions while Metamedia turned its attention specifically to the social cross section of architecture's influence. Isolation

therefore may represent the confluence of its predecessors, inviting authors to be bold in their calls to action, certain in their convictions, and unafraid to propose radical solutions, as necessary. Architecture has been a profession with a history of, at best, enabling systemic racism if not assuring its generational persistence. We've welcomed all community members, but specifically students, academics, and practitioners in architecture to take ownership of this professional history and use their expertise to invent new solutions for its problems. We are a community with expertise in accessibility, compassion, dignity, resilience, trust, and most importantly the creativity to remain nimble in transforming each of these into a design ideology.

Telesis Team Statement

On December 11th, 2020, the AIA approved changes to its Code of Ethics by addressing the design of carceral facilities. This occurred after the writings found in this volume of Telesis were composed by contributors and curated by the editorial staff. The AIA's new Code of Ethics forbids members from "knowingly designing spaces intended for execution and torture, including indefinite or prolonged solitary confinement of prisoners." By making this change to its code of ethics, the AIA is embracing the goal of

decarceration head on. Their act hopefully serving as the impetus for other organizations to disallow the continuation of our flawed carceral system. The following pieces employ a reformist approach, showcasing how design may have been leveraged in the meantime.

The Telesis Team