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Artists Lab IV
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Task 4

Provocative Architecture

When looking at the work of Gordon Matta Clark I appreciate the rebellious nature that emanates from his work. Not just through his work, but in dropping out of university with the attitude of "I do not do architecture. I do the building. My interests are not utilitarian". To me, this speaks to his desire to create for himself and not for others, a valuable skill that should be admired by other creative types. Shooting out the windows of the Institute for Architecture & Urban Studies reminds me of my favorite definition of art, which is to say work that provokes a reaction from people. I can appreciate the cone-shaped subtraction that Gordon Matta Clark carved into the old market building as well because when walking past an abandoned building my initial desire is always to see inside of it. It seems like this work aimed to satiate that feeling for passersby.

The inflatable housing structure by Ant Farm confused me at first, but then I found it provocative, because why do we live in square concrete homes? If I'm not mistaken, there isn't a single perfect right-angle that exists in nature, but there's an endless amount of round shapes that exist naturally. Small rooms can feel claustrophobic, and I think that right-angles might exacerbate this feeling. As young humans we love inflatable play structures, they're physically satisfying. We lay in hammocks and bean bags for enhanced leisure, why not shape our entire home like a beanbag? As you may have noticed during our class zoom calls, the wall and ceiling behind me in my apartment are anything but perfectly aligned. Angles did improperly feel sloppy, but round spherical shapes rooms could be much more forgiving.

I can appreciate that Haus-Rucker-Co created an interactive and inflatable play space. I don't understand why we're supposed to stop playing when we become adults when play is one of the most valuable things we can do as mammals. In a

sense, these architects are also playing when they make these ridiculous pieces, as they're exploring shapes, form, and points of interaction through non-traditional building styles. My ideally designed home has always been a glass and stainless steel cube, cut to angular precision but I'm not sure how much peace I could truly find in such a generic style that's been done so many times before. What does it take to have a home with round rooms?

My five questions:

- At what point did Gordon Matta Clark decide he was going to shoot out the Institute for Architecture & Urban Studies windows?
- Was Ant Farm's inflatable house inspired directly by children's play places?
- Which natural shapes originally inspired the Ant Farm modular housing illustrations?
- Did being in the inflatable home concept feel like it lacked privacy?
- Do Arakawa and Madeline Gins genuinely believe that their house boosts the immune system?