

# FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE TRUE TO SCALE

FEBRUARY 20-  
SEPTEMBER 27,  
2020

Museum of Art and Design  
Miami Dade College

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Located in Miami's National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower, the Museum of Art and Design (MOAD) at MDC offers groundbreaking exhibitions and programs that aim to foster a reimagined Miami. Exploring the challenges and opportunities we face locally and globally, MOAD convenes artists, designers, and thinkers to address the urgent questions of our time. As the flagship museum of Miami Dade College, MOAD strives to be a catalyst for action and a place that empowers people to remake their city. MOAD follows the College's lead in operating across Miami with its Museum Without Boundaries initiative, which takes place in city neighborhoods and invites everyone to be a part of the conversation.

**Museum of Art and Design  
Miami Dade College**

Freedom Tower  
600 Biscayne Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Miami, FL 33132

**Hours**

Wednesday	1:00–6:00 PM
Thursday	1:00–8:00 PM
Friday	1:00–6:00 PM
Saturday	1:00–6:00 PM
Sunday	1:00–6:00 PM
Closed Monday and Tuesday	

Accessibility challenges: Our team wants to ensure your visit is a pleasant one. If you have any special needs, please call (305) 237-7700 or email [info@moadmdc.org](mailto:info@moadmdc.org) during museum hours.

For updates and a full schedule of events, please visit <http://www.mdcmoad.org>

A program of  
Miami Dade College



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#TrueToScale  
#MOAD

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*Virtual Witnesses: Assembling the Testimonial Space of Israeli Violence in Hebron (2020). A superimposition of models was created during three interviews in which witnesses digitally reconstruct the scene of an incident. This image depicts their combined description of a convoy of soldiers escorting arrested Palestinian civilians to a militarized checkpoint in Hebron. Courtesy of Forensic Architecture/Breaking the Silence.*



Located in Miami's National Historic Landmark FreedomTower, the Museum of Art and Design (MOAD) at MDC offers groundbreaking exhibitions and programs that aim to foster a reimagined Miami. Exploring the challenges and opportunities we face locally and globally, MOAD convenes artists, designers, and thinkers to address the urgent questions of our time. As the flagship museum of Miami Dade College, MOAD strives to be a catalyst for action and a place that empowers people to remake their city. MOAD follows the College's lead in operating across Miami with its Museum Without Boundaries initiative, which takes place in city neighborhoods and invites everyone to be a part of the conversation.

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A program of Miami Dade College  
Facebook: /moadmcd  
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Twitter: #TrueToScale  
Hashtag: #MOAD



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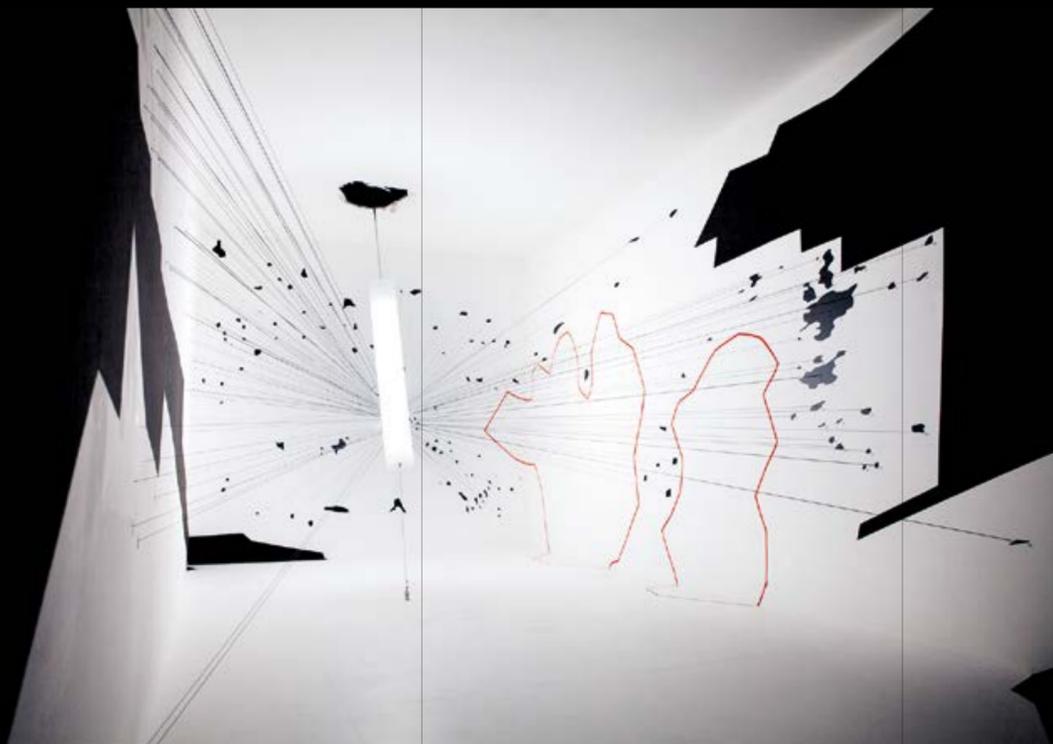
## FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE TRUE TO SCALE

Never before have the news and social media been so easily flooded with photoshopped imagery, lies unfaded by contradictory facts, clickbait distractions, and the tactically cynical suggestion that truth is a matter of opinion. While many governmental bodies and corporate interests foment this mass confusion, the research agency Forensic Architecture develops advanced methods for verifying evidence of state and corporate violence.

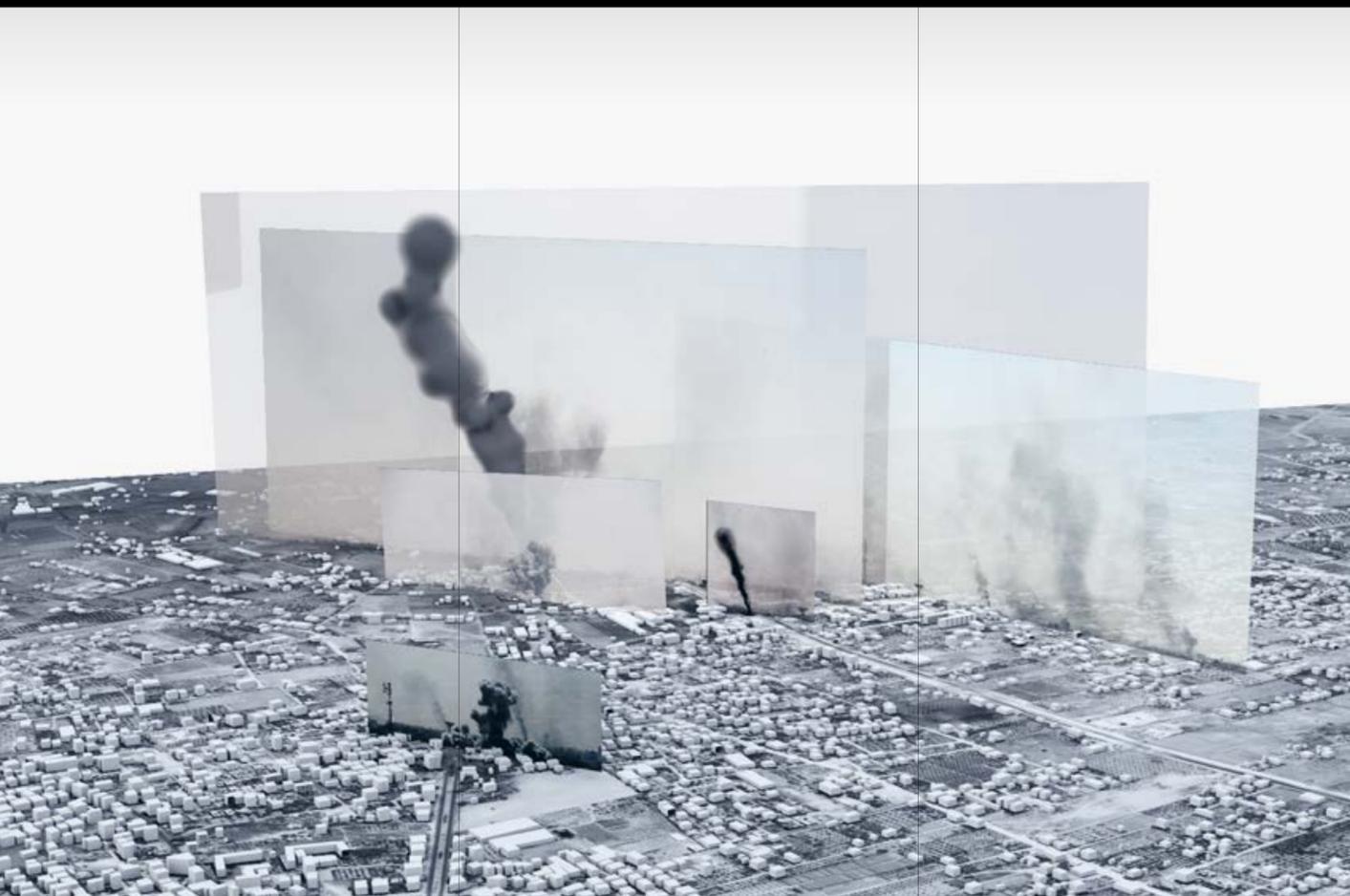
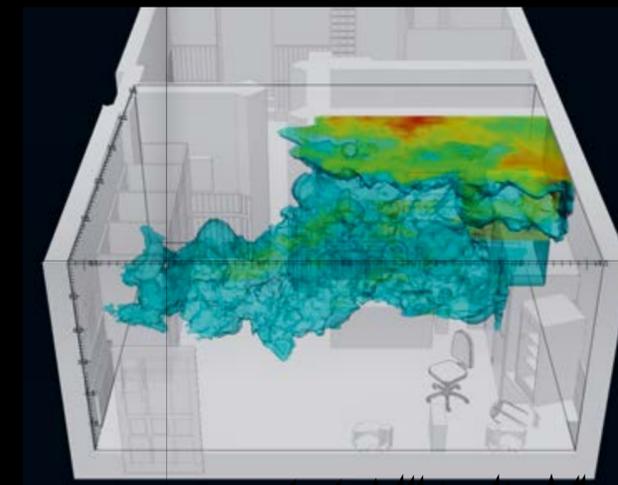
The evidence Forensic Architecture analyzes ranges from cartographies of large land masses to the rubble of a bombed dwelling, single pixels within degraded satellite imagery to vast pools of crowdsourced data. Its techniques are equally varied. Photogrammetry, audio analysis, immersive technologies, 3-D modeling, and machine learning number among the diverse methods used to examine incidents in the time and space of their occurrence.



*Drone Strike in Miranshah (2016)*. A composite image merges news footage of a home destroyed in a drone strike on Miranshah, North Waziristan, Pakistan, together with Forensic Architecture's 3-D modelling. Forensic Architecture used shadow analysis to corroborate the approximate time (15:00) the video was shot. Courtesy of Forensic Architecture.



*Drone Strike in Miranshah (2016)*. A By reconstructing the room destroyed in a drone strike in Miranshah, Pakistan, in 1:1 scale, Forensic Architecture was able to mark every trace that the blast left on the walls, thus establishing the location of the explosion and the exact places where people were killed. Image: *Case of the Architecture of Hellfire Romeo* (in *Reporting from the Front*, Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, May 28–November 27, 2016), exhibition view. © Forensic Architecture.



*The Bombing of Rafa (2015)*. In this image-complex, Forensic Architecture located photographs and videos within a 3-D model to tell the story of "Black Friday," one of the heaviest days of bombardment in the 2014 Israel-Gaza war. Courtesy of Forensic Architecture.

Forensic Architecture often conducts investigations alongside humanitarian, news, and legal organizations. Yet its interdisciplinary practice does not result from the work of expert analysts, coders, and professional sleuths exclusively. The core team and extended family of collaborators include the communities that experience state violence firsthand, along with artists, architects, filmmakers, and sound specialists adept at interpreting multi-media and presenting evidence with compelling accuracy.

Based at Goldsmiths, University of London, Forensic Architecture also represents an emergent academic field. Studying how the built environment enters legal and political processes, it approaches architecture as a medium that records physical forces, an optical device through which to scrutinize events, a mnemonic aid, and an effective investigative sensibility. At a time when we perceive information to be as nebulous as the cloud in which it is increasingly stored, this combination of field research and theoretical inquiry reminds us that materials are still fundamental to the production of knowledge.

Comprising videos, models, infographics, and full-size replicas, *Forensic Architecture: True to Scale* presents the first U.S. survey of the agency's investigations into police violence, environmental devastation, maritime migration, and war. While providing an overview of Forensic Architecture's central techniques and theories, the exhibition also considers the complex relationship between a material fact and its representation in the public realm. In addition to illuminating a specific event—often within a long history of injustice—each investigation details the analytical steps taken to reach conclusions. Such methodological transparency makes it possible for communities collaborating with Forensic Architecture to reproduce its work, while ensuring that the findings are persuasive in the various tribunals and public forums where it pursues accountability. The transparency of Forensic Architecture's work is also radically educational, offering the public a hopeful defense against today's purveyors of misinformation.

In this spirit, the exhibition includes a study area that features books about some of the artists who have contributed to Forensic Architecture's investigations, along with other texts that critically examine truth claims from historical, theoretical, and practical perspectives. Also on display is an interactive platform, which Forensic Architecture developed by gathering evidence from people involved in or surrounding an incident, crowdsourcing additional information, and synthesizing it all into a navigable 3-D model. As with other investigations indebted to the bravery and technological savvy of average citizens, this work demonstrates that we can all play an active role in uncovering the crucial facts that affect our lives.

The public programming for *Forensic Architecture: True to Scale* similarly reflects the group's allegiance to citizen involvement and knowledge production. Each event corresponds to a specific aspect of the agency's methodology and aims to promote crucial skills for verifying information in what is increasingly referred to as our "post-truth" media environment. The nearby Homestead child migrant detention center serves as a case study for several of the events. By considering the practical application of Forensic Architecture's expanded architectural sensibility, we invite audience members to not just receive information on spatial-media practices, but to scrutinize their own surroundings through such a lens.



*The Seizure of the Luventa (2018)*. By mapping the sky on the inside of a sphere, Forensic Architecture tracked the motion of a mounted camera and matched the drifting movements of the vessels in the scene. Courtesy of Forensic Oceanography and Forensic Architecture.

Organized by MOAD, *Forensic Architecture: True to Scale* is curated by Sophie Landres, Curator of Public Programs and Education. It is made possible by the support of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

