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### **Far Away so Close: Architecture as a Material Agent for Cultural Mediation**

The research project Far Away so Close – Architecture as Cultural Mediation departed from an interest in cities as sites of negotiation, and in the continuous interplay of materiality, form and human relations that shape urban space. It addresses questions of socio-materiality and seeks to investigate ways in which the built environment affects the establishment of relations to ‘others’ and ‘elsewhere’ in urban space. My research takes a particular interest in spaces of ‘radical difference’ e.g. spaces adopted by people with dissimilar spatial aspirations. I will primarily study places that act on several spatial scales – spaces sometimes referred to as ‘global’, ‘multicultural’ or ‘transnational’ – in search of architecture’s potential to act as a transitional mediator in such extended networks. I intend to take on an approach that is both descriptive and prescriptive, allowing the research answer to be suggestive.