



Ouroboros:

Composting of bodies reimagining how we view funerary rituals.

Jazmyne Knox

Conversation:

Composting of human bodies involves the body being put in a closed container with woodchips, alfalfa and straw grass. The body then decomposes under the influence of microbes. After a short period, loved ones are given the resulting fertilizer that can then enhance soil and plants. This is a more sustainable practice than cremation and embalming. How will composting of bodies change the rituals of how we mourn our loved ones? How will the idea of composting bodies after their death change how we design funeral homes and spaces where we say goodbye to the dead?

Stakes:

Designing for how we bury the dead isn't a new concept but it's one that's changing. By reimagining the death grieving process, architecture can respond to the coming generation's values of being environmentally conscious.

Betterment:

Giving our bodies back to the Earth presents a cycle that can connect to other cycles in nature. This proposal connects people and the built environment to nature spiritually and physically.

Profile:

On June 24, 2022, Roe v. Wade, the historic law that established access to abortion as a constitutional right in the United States, was overturned. I've always had an interest in healthcare design and seeing the effects the case had on architecture made me want to further understand the relationship of architecture and politics, particularly when it comes to autonomy with our bodies. I hope to continue to bring controversial topics to the table so architecture can respond to the everchanging political landscape.

