

## Downtown Bestiary: Generic Architecture and Abstract Beauty in Downtown Houston

Jesús Vasallo

Downtown Houston is made by the unruly collision of generic boxes clad with normative facades. In few places are parking garages more difficult to tell apart from office towers, department stores from police stations. What do all those big blank boxes dream of becoming once all the workers have left to the suburbs and downtown is empty for the night?



Jesús Vassallo is a Spanish architect and writer. Based in Houston, Texas and Madrid, Spain, his work interrogates the problem of realism in architecture through the production of design projects and scholarship. He is the author of *Seamless: Digital Collage and Dirty Realism in Contemporary Architecture* (Park Books, 2016). His projects and articles have been published internationally in magazines such as AA Files, 2G, Log, Harvard Design Magazine, Future Anterior, Domus, or Arquitectura Viva. In 2015 Vassallo opened an independent design practice that bridges architecture and urbanism through an understanding of both as material culture.