SHAPE-SHIFTING ARCHITECTURE

New biologically inspired materials and concepts about how materials can be organized have led to radical possibilities. John Amend, working at the Cornell Computational Synthesis Laboratory, is paving the way for real-time, reprogrammable matter. Using the “jamming phenomenon of granular materials,” which allows a material to be reorganized at a granular level without a change in temperature, Amend is changing the ways we think about kinetic locomotion and reconfigurable structure design. These projects represent the early precursors to living, thinking, reprogrammable architecture.