Black Contemporary serves as an experiential laboratory for ongoing investigations intended to expand our knowledge specific to the study of atmospheric logics. The field station is located at 26107 530th Avenue – two miles south of Ames, Iowa. Using experiential perceptions as spatial conditioners, current studio projects focus on the act of making and curating a series of research assemblies within a dormant seed-drying facility constructed in 1979. This work might best be understood as an exhibition of site-specific art installations.

Over the course of the past semester, through diverse platforms of exhibitions, inquiries, conversations, dinners, debates, publications, interfaces and atmospheres, Black Contemporary will re-consider the space of the family farm and the way it is framed, expressed and understood. Rural Route 3 (RR3) is an annual spring exhibition that will transform the field station into a public art site – this exhibition and project series serves to initiate a holistic reconsideration of the nature of spatial adjustments as it relates to local and global forms of land use practices. Throughout its spring semester run the exhibition will remain in a state of constant change – between the gallery and its exterior, between design process and fabrication, between sensorial gauges and installation of site-specific works. Black Contemporary will host a series of dialogues throughout the exhibition that will convene key participants Peter P. Goché (Artist/Architect) and Alex Braidwood (Artist) along with student works (Nicole Becker – Alison Brunn – Ryan Carter – Kyle Chakour – Yuxuan Gu – Tianhui Hou – Sabrina Johnson – Kendra Koch – Rob Lawrence – Preston Mila – Heidi Reburn – Zachary Werba – Zhenru Zhang – Liu Lola Zheng – Yasong Zhou) from interdisciplinary perspectives to consider land use futures and speculate on specific possibilities for the reoccupation of the ‘farm’ site. It is our assertion that artist, architects and farmers can play a critical role in the production of the seen and unseen – spaces made and re-made. Our team of participants will present art, architecture and agriculture as an embodiment of the principles and methods of inquiry whereby the general public is allowed to insert itself as participant.

Peter P. Goché is a practicing architect, artist and educator. Goché works with the nature of perception and spatial phenomenon in developing his material practice. His works provoke a temporal-spatial encounter that understand the simultaneous and complex nature of cerebral and corporeal experience. He is founder and executive curator of Black Contemporary, a rural field station dedicated to the study of spatial phenomena and perception. He is co-investigator/author of Guidelines for Spatial Regeneration in Iowa funded by the 2007 AIA Board of Knowledge Committee. Goché has exhibited and lectured on his creative practice and scholarship at many conferences and cultural institutions throughout North America and Western Europe. As educator in the Department of Architecture and foundational design at Iowa State University, Goché holds both B. Arch and M. Arch degrees in architectural studies from Iowa State University. He taught in the Department of Art at Drake University before joining the faculty at the Iowa State University, where he coordinates and teaches design studios. His understanding and sensibilities regarding spatial experience and ethno-specific design stem from an agrarian upbringing and ongoing research in art, architecture and anthropology at Iowa State University. Equally, his travel throughout North America, Europe and the Czech Republic has nurtured his interest in human beings, their practices and the ways they occupy and perceive space.