

Comprehensive studio RE_sortBODYmind

Architecture 5901

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The **Comprehensive** studio is the threshold for the graduate professional program in architecture.

Without successfully completing the Comprehensive studio access to the topical offerings of the professional program is not available. The Comprehensive studio reflects directly the teaching criteria for comprehensive design required by the National Architecture Accreditation Board

(NAAB): **the criteria** Ability to produce a comprehensive architectural project based on a building program and site that includes development of programmed spaces demonstrating an understanding of structural and environmental systems, building envelope systems, life-safety provisions, wall sections and building assemblies and the principles of sustainability.

The underlying intent of the studio is to fully integrate programmatic, technical and aesthetic concepts throughout the full range of design activity from schematic proposal to design development to contract document. The operative word is 'integrate'. Integration requires a cyclical and exploratory design process, which valorizes the mutual solution of competing concepts. For example, just having a plausible structural system without fully engaging the other systems and conceptual issues involved is not adequate for completing the studio successfully. Success will require a sincere effort to integrate the various elements of the architectural solution.

Methodology: The studio will be sequenced to represent three phases of design: schematic, design development and contract document. All the issues embraced by the NAAB criteria must be engaged with each phase. In essence, just like practice, the building will be designed three times with greater specificity with each pass. There will be three reviews—one after each phase of design. Your work will be reviewed by professionals licensed in Texas who will judge your work as much for its inventiveness as for its technicality. Just like practice, you will be working with a partner. Projects will be completed in teams of two with equal responsibility for the general aesthetic and technical decisions. The program employed as a vehicle for the course allows each student to focus some individual attention to a particular part of the building; but, it is a priority of the client that the building works well as a whole.

Studio: The studio meets every day. It will be run like an office. Four unexcused absences are grounds for termination. Coming to studio late or leaving early will not be tolerated and will also be grounds for termination. If you leave the studio during the work time you must inform

one of the studio masters. The work time is just for that—work. As the studio will be structured around teams of two and as the work of the studio will demand the kind of sharing of technical knowledge that takes place in an office. Students will be evaluated on their ability to perform in a professional manner. Unprofessional behavior can result in a loss of a full letter grade for the semester. As this studio is a nine hour course, it will be the hardest studio that you have ever taken—make adjustments now. On the other hand, this studio is intended to put you in a position to be very competitive for employment in a time when employment is difficult in our profession.

Project: The vehicle for the studio will be the RE_sortBODYmind project. It should be expected that for pedagogical reasons the studio masters will direct you to research relevant materials and options in order to help the larger studio understand the role of material choice and assembly option in the design process. Your success depends upon the success of the studio. Exercises aimed at the exploration of alternatives must be taken seriously in order to assure the success of the studio. While these exercises may not be part of the reviews, they will be part of the graded material.

Readings: Readings concerned with technical issues, architectural theory, and culture will play a significant role in the intellectual nature of the studio. Practical issues have intellectual dimensions. You are responsible for all assigned readings. Just like in practice, you are responsible for them as soon as they are assigned. Unless you engage the intellectual issues embedded in the execution of the project you will not be successful at integrating its constituent elements. This studio will be detail-intense. The art of detailing is an exercise in judgment inspired by intellect and tempered by care. Form is knowledge. Well designed connections make well designed elements, which make well designed buildings.

Teams: The design teams will work together and should be organized within the studio to maximize the interaction between the partners. Collaboration within teams and across the studios is paramount to success. Failure to collaborate will result in a loss of letter grade regardless of the competency of the projects. Teams will be composed by the studio masters after the initial study project and after the students have taken a personality test.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated for team effort and for individual effort after each phase of the design process. The professional reviewers will have a minor influence on the evaluation. Work that explores opportunities beyond the limits of the assignment, is inventive and crafted in an extraordinary manner will receive an A—outstanding. Work that is thoroughly accomplished for all issues required to be engaged will receive a B—good. Work that addresses all issues but some not thoroughly will receive a C—average. Work that does not address all issues required

will receive a D—unacceptable. Students who miss an extended amount of time will be given a D or an F.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessment: The students are required to meet all conditions of the NAAB criteria for Comprehensive Design:

- **Program** satisfaction and expression
- **Site** resolution and development
- **Structural** system development, detailing and integration
- **Environmental** system development and integration
- **Envelope** system development, detailing and integration
- **Life-safety** provisions resolution and integration
- Comprehensive **wall and building section** development and detailing
- Integration of the issues of **sustainability** with all aspects of the form/solution

Added to these expectations will be the detailed development of a significant **interior** space including furniture and finishes.

All items will be addressed and evaluated at each of the three main reviews by the studio masters and the professional reviewers.