

Architecture 484/584 • Fall 2009 • Portland

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*Note: This studio will meet Tuesday 7-10, Wednesday 1-6, and Friday 1-5 at the WSB.*

## **urban school *re-mix***

This studio will use a much-needed facility in the Old Town/Pearl District—a middle school—as the medium for investigation of hybrid buildings.

Buildings that combined multiple functions were normal in history but became less common in the 20th century as the idea of the zoned city took hold. But now, the environmental imperative along with contemporary attitudes toward the vitality of urban life are forcing a re-think of this idea. This studio is a speculation in new attitudes toward the mixture of functions and spaces in urban buildings.

The program will center on a small middle school, in which urban sustainability forms the basis of the curriculum. In our studio, each student will choose one or more of the following opposing ideas, and design a building that helps to bring them together:

- kids learning inside a building vs kids learning outside in the city
- a building with an internal function (teaching) vs a building with an external function (another service to the community)
- an urban district with private functions exclusively vs an urban district with both private and public functions
- a building without nature vs nature without a building

The building program will be about 30,000 square feet. The site will be in the Pearl/Old Town/Chinatown area. Students will be encouraged to re-interpret the program in ways that provoke new ideas with respect to the above issues. Beyond these issues, the studio will address some basic architectural questions:

- \* the organization of a complex building and the role of circulation and non-programmed space in the social fabric of the building
- \* new interpretations and overlaps of program spaces
- \* relationships between inside and outside and how such relationships can help children expand their views of nature and the city
- \* the role of structure and materials in furthering the building's meaning
- \* development of the ground plane and connections to the public realm
- \* the development of building façades

Students will be expected to work in a variety of media, to engage in frequent pinups and energetically participate in the work of an intense studio. The instructor, usually based in Eugene, will be living in Portland from Tuesday through Friday of each week and fully available for the studio.

