

**Allied Works Architecture  
Terminal Studio Proposal  
University of Oregon, Portland Center  
2009-2010**

**INTENT**

- **Critical Stance.** To develop skills and methods that will expand upon a traditional design studio curriculum and project brief, to examine all phases of the design process and go beyond a single response to a given site and program.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach.** To integrate the study of architectural design with other areas of creative practice, and explore a broader base of technical and artistic research and investigation.

**PROJECT / QUESTION:**

**A Civic Building.** What defines the civic in the present day? What has the power to bring people together, whether in a more monumental and condensed condition, or rather as a more dispersed, fragmented and diverse series of places? What role does architecture serve in the integration and stabilization of our cities and communities?

In developing proposals for a new civic architecture, a number of inter-related factors must be considered:

- **Landscape.** The earth is the essential medium for the making of architecture. We will explore how it is perceived, experienced, and shared; how it exerts an influence on the body and upon built form; how it may be shaped and transformed to serve a variety of purposes.
- **Infrastructure / Information Systems.** In an urban context, individuals, buildings and sites are held within larger systems that facilitate the transfer of materials, energy and ideas. The significance of these networks takes on a greater importance in the design of civic space. The studio will address these considerations both conceptually and technically through the process of building design and development.
- **Scale and Distribution.** We will consider how scale and geographic distribution serve the concept of the civic within a given context, and have the potential to support both cohesion and interaction among communities.
- **Institutional Presence / Iconography.** Civic Architecture frequently aspires to be *of* a given place and community while announcing itself as a place of special significance. The studio will examine how architectural expression attempts to define and demarcate civic space, and how this expression interacts with the forces of history, culture and use.

These will form the basis and point of departure for the studio's investigations. Each will be considered as aspects informing the building design proposal, and as individual sketch problems / conceptual design studies.

## STRUCTURE AND SEQUENCE

### Three Phases of Investigation:

- Site and Insight
- Analysis, Visualization and Proposition
- Building Design and Development

#### Phase One: Site and Insight

**Fall Quarter Seminar, 2009** [3 credits]

This phase is a prelude to the terminal studio, and is structured as a series of workshops that focus on site, and address the physical and cultural forces that give it relevance and definition. We will also explore interdisciplinary approaches to the challenge of representation – how to derive insight from a given condition, communicate the essence of a site to facilitate understanding and dialogue, and arrive at a strong position for the commencement of design.

#### Phase Two: Analysis, Visualization, Proposition

**Winter Quarter Studio 2010** [6 credits]

The first studio phase introduces the design problem, potential sites and intended use that necessitate the making of a new work of architecture. A preliminary program will be given but may be redefined based on these initial investigations. Through the course of the studio, we will generate site responses and ordering principles that will develop into a schematic building design. The goal of this phase is to arrive at a clear, concise building proposal and statement of intent.

#### Phase Three: Building Design and Development

**Spring Quarter Studio 2010** [6 credits]

In this phase, we will focus on refining the language and craft of architecture as expressed through materials, assembly, structure, and the integration of systems. The design and development of the project will be based not only on the functional resolution of these criteria but on their expressive potential. In this effort we will be aided by accomplished builders and artisans from Allied Works and around the region.

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