MAKING BUILDINGS FOR MAKERS

In the new production economy of Portland (and many other cities) small-scale manufacturing and local food production are beginning again to play significant roles in the urban economy and urban life. The studio involves the design, documentation and exhibition of two linked projects: buildings and spaces for small-scale "makers," food producers and manufacturers. To be located on sites on Portland's East Side, the projects will combine architectural innovation, economy of means and understandings of humane and effective workplaces for new manufacturing and production.

The two projects involve new construction and/or conversion of existing space:

**Project 1 (two weeks)** is the conversion of a single, small space for an artisan, such as a cabinet-maker, musical-instrument maker or digital-fabrication innovator. Emphasis will be on the relationship between artisan activity and the physical things that support it, including tools, furniture, storage, daylight, materials. Designing a small space at large scale will require attention to detail that will inform the design process of subsequent projects.

**Project 2 (seven-and-a-half weeks), the main project of the term,** is a moderate-sized (18-20,000 SF) mixed-use building that incorporates a principal small-manufacturing business, along with shared and/or individual spaces for a number of small-scale makers, to be rented cheaply, along with commercial space or housing that is intended partly to help pay for the cheap rents in the other spaces.

This project will include space for the artisan business in Project 1 (which we conjecture will have grown into the need for a new facility) or a food-related business. This space will need to accommodate several workers who use advanced equipment as well as hand tools, and will be developed as a detailed part of the larger building.

We will look at European and American precedents, considering issues of materials, light and environmental systems—along with workplace comfort—as integral parts of the design. Also:

• We will be working with the non-profit Mercy Corps Northwest (MCNW) who work directly with new entrepreneurs. The MCNW leadership and some of their entrepreneurs will join the studio for discussions and crits, and the studio work will contribute to the development of MCNW programs to help new entrepreneurs and artisans with issues they face regarding their work spaces.

• The first week of Project 2 will incorporate a design charrette with an architecture studio visiting from Japan. They will also make a presentation about Tokyo neighborhoods that have small artisan spaces similar to those we are looking at in Portland.

• The studio will benefit from a $5000 grant from the Department of Architecture, which will pay for documentation, an exhibition of work (at the White Stag or at the MCNW offices) and a small symposium, scheduled for Saturday Oct 18 at which people involved in micro-businesses and urban manufacturing will speak.

• The final presentation will include documentation of both projects, in a specified graphic/presentation format, and incorporated into a studio book as a permanent record of the work. In addition to the exhibition and book, studio work will be represented on the website of the Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism, a research-consulting group affiliated with the UO and co-directed by Howard Davis.

The studio will be conducted with regular pinups, expectations of committed involvement and a high level of interaction between students and between student and instructor.