Arch 410 / 510

LIGHT AND SHADOW

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Light reveals our visual universe. Light shapes how we perceive form and the boundaries of space. Light gives vitality to immutable form, revealing the familiar "in a new light". Small adjustments in light intensity, composition and viewpoint can yield big changes in highlights and shadow patterns.

Students will learn how to aesthetically control light and shadow for through hands-on experiments and examples from art, design and architecture. The class will explore design as discovery, looking for emergent visual phenomenon in material manipulation. We will study how architectural surfaces, materials and apertures can be activated by changing light and we will play with how surfaces can be cut, creased, crimped, carved, or colored to create light and shadow effects. Students will be encouraged to experiment with unfamiliar materials and processes such as digital fabrication and video.

OBJECTIVES

to understand how shaping materials can create light and shadow effects.
to hone form-finding methods that engage material qualities
to discover elements of a personal formal vocabulary
to build design communication and fabrication skills

PROCESS

Class sessions will include presentations, practice, teamwork, and discussion. Short creative exercises will culminate in a final project. Students can propose alternate ways to achieve the exercise objectives, especially if it will help them experiment with something new.

Students will archive assignments with a blog for documenting work-in-progress, reflecting on progress and publishing design work. All course student work in progress will feed into a group website. We will use the website to share resources, and communicate. The final project must be documented as an Adobe Acrobat PDF document, 11” x 17” horizontal format.