Vancouver, British Columbia, with its stunning backdrop of mountains and sea, is a multi-cultural, dynamic metropolis and seaport with a population of almost two-and-a-half million. The city has developed an international reputation for its integrated approach to urban planning, the provision and design of public space, effective transportation and sustainability.

Just prior to Expo 86, Vancouver completed the first phase of a planned citywide light rail rapid transit system. As the system has grown, increased attention has been paid to the design of the stations themselves, to the point where they have attained landmark status and showcase the work of the city’s leading contemporary architects.

In the locations where the stations are above ground and integrated with the built fabric of the city, compelling architectural statements are called for, with attention paid to the creation of energetic and attractive public spaces, the use of innovative structural systems, and finely-crafted building details. Recent stations designed by Peter Busby, Walter Francl and others have demonstrated a commitment to the exploration and use of renewable building materials, with laminated timber and wood composites playing a key role in the expressive character of the building.

For these (2) studios, we will select an actual site that has been identified in the planning for future lines radiating from the heart of the city. Designs for the above ground station must respond to the local urban context, resolve the complex problem of pedestrian circulation between multiple modes of transportation and create vital public space.
The program for the station includes a public arrival and entry hall, the provision of appropriate security and control, covered shelter at the trackside, and supporting auxiliary spaces. We will be paying special attention to the expressive use of structure, building systems and construction details. The creation of contextually appropriate, vibrant, and above all beautiful buildings befitting a world-class cosmopolitan city is expected.

Design Integration Studio:

This studio will emphasize design development and technical integration. The 484/584 vertical format requires that the studio be accessible to all students with this eligibility, however, it will best serve those who have completed the Structures sequence and may be concurrently enrolled in Building Enclosure. All students will be required to design spatially rich structural systems regardless of course background, including analytical modeling of the structure at an appropriate level of detail. Experimentation with basic materials and construction methods will be asked of everyone. Those more advanced in the technical course sequence will be expected to engage the enclosure and finish of the project. Explicit, detailed models and drawings will be required.

Studio Format:

These two studios will operate in parallel, with shared exercises, pin-ups and reviews. Students will preference one instructor of record (either Donald Corner or Stephen Duff), but will hear two distinct but points of view about structure and construction in the making of architecture.

There will be a site visit to Vancouver during the first weekend of the term. Departure is anticipated on Thursday afternoon. Friday and Saturday will include meetings with city officials and design consultants as well as tours of exemplary stations in the Skytrain system.

Evaluation:

Performance in will be graded on a pass/no pass (P/NP) basis only. Student work will be evaluated for achievement in all of the areas listed in the Department of Architecture's studio evaluation form. These forms include a checklist of performance criteria and written evaluations by instructors. At the end of the term, students are required to meet individually with their instructors to discuss their progress and receive their evaluation. Completed evaluation forms are placed in student file; copies are given to students.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let the instructor know so arrangements can be in place. You should also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend all studio meetings, be on time, and stay for the entire scheduled session working on studio activities. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Students with three (3) or more unexcused absences are required to meet with their instructor before returning to studio. Excused absences (such as illness or personal emergency) must be reported to the instructor prior to the missed class if at all possible. Verification of illness forms can be obtained from the Student Health Services.