Arch 4/584 Architectural Design: Modular Making in the Age of Digital Craft
Fall 2011

Instructor of record: Nathan Clark Corser, AIA, LEED AP, Design Principal of IDC Architects
Contributing teachers: Karl Burkheimer, Head of OCAC's Wood Department
Mark and Peter Anderson of Anderson Anderson Architects (workshops)

What is the place of Arts and Crafts in the 21st century? How can a school for craft better serve its faculty, students, visitors and patrons while projecting its mission and purpose to them and the broader community? The Oregon College of Arts and Crafts (OCAC) has initiated a tutorial class to address these questions. Those OCAC student's charge is to investigate an architectural design/build methodology, informing a design practice with a hands on approach to making. AAA students in this studio will work in an interdisciplinary manner with the OCAC instructor and students joining together to envision and design a campus augmented and enhanced through the planning for new entries, pathways, new structures and future expansion(s). Within the context of an ambitious current master planning approach and recently completed signature buildings AAA and OCAC students will help define and refine the spatial quality, experience and character of this forested hillside campus.

This investigation, design and building studio will be comprised of three primary components that we are inextricably linked together; 1) a site analysis and planning exercise looking to improve site entries, connectivity, place making and wayfinding; 2) a modular structures design and development component sufficient to demonstrate direct applicability to current and anticipated future programmatic needs at this site and, lastly; 3) full scale tectonic design and prototyping modeling and built assemblies sufficient to ascertain cost and substantiate constructability.

Working in tandem with Karl Burkheimer and his seven OCAC students this studio will research, explore and eventually create full-scale modular structure(s) that must respond to, support and reinforce the needs, functions, mission and goals of OCAC and its programs. The design and construction of a modular structure(s) must serve OCAC's current programmatic needs as stand-alone structures and, quite likely, in possible phased combinations with one another and/or with extant campus structures. The modular structures must, ultimately, demonstrate a maximum functional capability measured by their efficiency, flexibility, adaptability, constructability and ability to be deployed in potentially multiple phases. It is the desire of OCAC and the intention of this studio to investigate and propose design solutions that can be achieved to meet a fixed budget and subsequently be permitted and constructed on the OCAC campus. It is anticipated that design and fabrication work produced as part of this studio will be prepared for presentation and review by the OCAC Facilities Committee.

This endeavor will be informed and enhanced by the participation of Anderson Anderson Architecture. Peter and Mark Anderson, along with their associate Chris, will join our studio and OCAC students in a couple of strategic hands-on workshops as part of this studio's investigation. Partners Mark Anderson and Peter Anderson started their firm as a design-build construction company and have a deep understanding and experience in both the digital design process and the practical application of design through construction. Peer and client recognition for their award-winning designs is a testament to the value and benefit of their interdisciplinary and "hands-on" based knowledge and implementation approach.

For further information about OCAC go to: www.ocac.edu <http://www.ocac.edu>

For further information regarding Anderson Anderson Architecture: www.andersonanderson.com <http://www.andersonanderson.com>

Further information, full syllabus and detailed course outline to follow