This seminar will have 2 parts:

Part One
We will read and discuss a series of key excerpts from each volume of the Nature of Order. From volume one, we will discuss the current nature of architectural practice and culture as well as the 15 Properties of Wholeness that Alexander proposes as being key to understanding depth of beauty. From volume 2 we will discuss critical ideas related to design process: the notions of structure-preserving transformations and the idea of gradual unfolding. From volume 3, we will discuss a range of buildings designed by Alexander and others that illustrate and embody the content of the first two volumes. From volume 4, we will discuss the 11 color properties proposed by Alexander ultimately leading to a discussion of a new cosmology for architecture: consciousness inextricably joined to the substrate of matter, present in all matter and underlying all judgments regarding the process of designing buildings.

Part Two
In teams of two, we will apply the content of The Nature of Order to the design of a single room, in model form, at the scale of 1” = 1’-0”. The goal here will be to engage the intellectual material in real terms, testing the theory posited in the 4 volumes through the making of an actual work of architecture. This process will be documented carefully in order to recognize, explore, and evaluate the unfolding of wholeness and beauty in a single room to a fine degree of resolution. This will involve at key moments, the use of variously scaled mock-ups, daylight models, and the actual making of important elements at full scale in real material terms.