ARCH 438/538 Housing Prototypes

Fall 2012
Department of Architecture – Portland
University of Oregon
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Credits: 3
Time: Thursday 1:00-3:50 PM / White Stag Rm 150
Prerequisites: Junior Standing.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examines modern housing prototypes from the 1920s to the present with an emphasis on understanding the many and varied factors involved in the production of high-quality housing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Special emphasis will focus on the review of appropriate housing models for the future, given demands for increased density and responding to diminishing natural resources. Case studies primarily from the U.S., but also from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, will be examined. Issues addressed will include: differences in housing form as a result of density issues (e.g., from s.f.d. to high-rise point towers); site, building, unit design principles; relationship of inside to outside; affordability; housing policy and housing financing; construction technology; zoning and building codes; new and emerging lifestyles (changing demographics); New Urbanism; homelessness; manufactured housing; special user groups (e.g. elderly); social and behavioral factors as form determinants; origins of suburbia and multi-family housing; providing a sense of community, identity, and memorable image in neighborhood design.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Awareness of the many and complex factors involved in the design of various housing types.
• Understanding of the theoretical, traditional, symbolic, practical, and technical considerations of various housing types and their application.
• Ability to analyze and design appropriate housing projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects.
Project #1: In-depth Case Study (a team project for 50% of course grade)
Project #2: Individual Project for 50% of course grade
ARCH 438: Take-Home Final Exam (or Paper or Notebook option)
ARCH 538: Research Paper or Notebook (e.g., programming notebook for a terminal studio project)
Note: Only students enrolled in 438 are eligible to choose the Take Home Final option.

COURSE FORMAT:
Issues will be presented primarily in a lecture format followed by further seminar discussion or student presentations. Guest lecturers and local field trips may also be utilized.

TEXTS:
An expanded course syllabus detailing important issues will be required (at a nominal costs for duplicating); and handouts (at costs of duplicating).