ARCH 439/539 Minimal Dwelling

Winter 2012 / Department of Architecture – Eugene / University of Oregon

Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Credits: 3
Time: Mondays 6:00-8:50 PM
Prerequisites: Junior Standing. Open to all majors (Design background preferred)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examination of the design of small dwelling units for a variety of user groups and special situations.

SPECIFIC FOCUS:
This course is a combination lecture, seminar, and workshop in the examination of small unit design at higher densities as a strategy to deal with compact growth and affordability. In addition, shelters for the homeless, disaster-relief housing, migrant farm worker housing, S.R.O. hotels, capsule hotels, and modular/prefab homes will be examined. The course will review various examples of small unit design and students will research, design, and/or construct prototypes, depending on individual student interests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation. Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects.

For ARCH 439 (undergraduate students)
• Case Study or Research Paper or design: 50% As an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 5 weekly @ 10% each) designing and/or building various prototypes: 50% In teams
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (undergraduate) student groups.

For ARCH 539 (graduate students)
• Research Paper or design w/ a research component: 50% As an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 5 weekly @ 10% each) designing and/or building various prototypes: 50% In teams
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (graduate) student groups.

COURSE FORMAT: The course meets once a week for almost three hours each week.
• 1st hour: Presentation of weekly topic by instructor
• 2nd hour: Student peer group break-out discussions of next weeks project
• 3rd hour: Student group presentations of weekly assignments