A PLACE OF WORSHIP

Some of us are drawn to mountain tops, Some to caves, others to forest clearings. For each person there is a place of alignment. Sanctuary has no further purpose.

Being there is reason enough. Frederick Lehrman, The Sacred Landscape

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
For those who seek sanctuary closer to home, this place of worship in Eugene is designed to provide an invitation to cross the threshold of the ordinary and experience a world beyond the everyday.

This studio offers the opportunity of immersion in a cultural experience that is new and unfamiliar. Each student will research a religion that they know little about. Their investigations will include learning the basic tenets of the religion, becoming familiar with the rituals and their symbols, participating in a service, talking with the faithful, and studying buildings throughout history that support the practice of that belief system. Students will then design a sanctuary that aligns itself with the religion they have chosen.

The spirit of this place will be one of repose and celebration. As a sacred building, it must be both a house of prayer/contemplation for the individual and a home for a community seeking to share common ground. Its users will connect both with the sacred and each other.

Of all the architectural means of expressing the presence of the sacred, perhaps the oldest, simplest, and most eloquent is the use of daylight. Within the (6,000-10,000 square foot) program, the use of light as a material of construction will be a primary focus of study.

SITE DESCRIPTION
The site for the project will be located on or near the University of Oregon campus.

DESIGN ISSUES TO BE STRESSED
• Crossing the threshold from the ordinary to the sacred.
• Shaping space and experience using daylight.
• Accommodating religion’s private and public dimensions under the same roof.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND WORKING PROCESS
• Intense design explorations (in-class charrettes) to begin the week.
• Class field trip(s) to places of worship outside of Eugene.
• Use of resources (people, places) within our community to explore an unfamiliar religion.
• Quick and sustained immersion into design, with weekly project goals.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with faculty soon. You should also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

MEGAN HAIGHT - ADJUNCT FACULTY / ARCH 4/584 - SUMMER 2011