U of O Architecture and Allied Arts School: a new home

The Architecture and Allied Arts School recently commissioned a team of design firms led by Bruce Mau Design, in collaboration with Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design and the international engineering firm Arup, to complete a strategic vision plan for the school. The results of this process form the framework for the development of a new facility to house the AAA.

This studio will be led by Mehrdad Yazdani of Yazdani Studio and will use the school’s visioning process as a point of departure: we will take on the architectural design of a new building to accommodate together all of the AAA departments and programs.

Architecture utilizes relatively simple means (a fixed arrangement of building materials) in a highly sophisticated fashion to support complex activities, the needs of which often change over time. Some spaces survive these transforming demands, others do not. In keeping with the outcome of the visioning exercise, this studio will explore how architecture can support an all-inclusive study program – one that facilitates collaboration and indeterminate future educational objectives, while accommodating current notions of disciplinary identity.

We will begin our research with direct observational analysis of the activities that make up the school. Students will be given the choice of two sites on and around the U of O campus on which to develop their scheme. We will explore issues of campus pattern and urban form, public and private space, and spatial sequence as we move into organization and relationships within a large program. We will also engage with issues of sustainability, structure, natural light and spatial form, tectonics, and materiality.

Methods of work
Throughout the term there will be a strong emphasis on physical making in the design process, including physical modeling, diagramming, and sketching at a variety of scales.