resilient mixed-use:
[east] London and [east] Portland

Note: The studio will meet Tuesday 6:30-9:30, Wednesday 1-6, and Friday 1-5.

This small, innovative mixed-use project will involve the design of industrial/work space, housing units, and retail space, all done with the idea that any one or all of those uses are resilient in their function and changeable over time, so that the building can transform as family needs, business needs, and the urban economy change as well.

There will be two possible sites, one on the east side of Portland, and the other in Whitechapel, in the East End of London, and students will have the choice of one of those two sites—hopefully half the students in the studio will choose each one. Both sites will be identified before the studio begins—the London site chosen as part of a research project in London that the instructor is undertaking in early September with a group of students.

The total project area will probably be between 30,000 and 40,000 square feet—large enough so that some of the complexities of mixed use and housing can be engaged, small enough so that the building can be developed in its physical and material character. A building program will be provided during the first week of the studio.

The studio is connected to the instructor’s current research interest in “resilient urban morphologies,” or ways of thinking about the city in dynamic terms, ranging from building types to street layouts to methods of regulation. The ongoing research—ranging from the instructor’s new book Living Over the Store: Architecture and Local Urban Life, about to be published, to research in China, London and Portland—will be part of the background material for the studio. In addition, various projects and writings of modernist architects such as Rietveld, Hertzberger, Habraken and others, who designed buildings that are flexible over time, will be discussed.

The studio will emphasize the following issues:
• development of new, resilient building types for dwelling, commerce and small-scale industry
• integration with the urban landscape/urban district, with function and building character
• design process and decision making during the design process; frequent short design exercises
• typologies of housing design, emphasizing unit types, and the organization of unit types with respect to the public and semi-public realm
• the role of structure, daylight, and construction/materials in the human experience of the building, and in the strategies for transformation over time
• an expressive and informative final presentation

The studio will be intensive and rigorously structured, with specific requirements set on an ongoing basis, weekly pinups and ample time for one-on-one desk crits with the instructor. Following the studio, during the winter term, a small symposium on the subject of the studio will be held, and students asked to make presentations of their projects to the invited guests.

Please direct questions about the studio to Howard Davis <hdavis@uoregon.edu>