On June 18, 2011, an addition to the Mercer Museum was opened to the public. Unlike the original museum, finished in the year 1916, the new wing is thoroughly contemporary and spatially very different from the existing structure. This studio will re-cast this addition, exploring what it means to maintain historical continuity when beloved old buildings are changed over time, issues eloquently discussed in Stuart Brand’s book *How Buildings Learn*. The project description, as summarized by the architects of record, Voith and Mactavash of Philadelphia, is as follows:

The new 13,000 sf addition provides the historic Museum with a primary entrance, new gallery, a classroom, and event and orientation space. Windows and glass skylights in the grand entry hall allow immediate views of the original museum, while the choice of poured in place reinforced concrete on the exterior is intended to relate the new addition to the original. Extensive site work includes new pedestrian and vehicular access, drop off, and expanded parking facilities, while a sustainable and comprehensive storm water management plan includes a green roof, pervious paving, and a rain garden.

We will add an additional gallery to this brief that will act as an interactive history of Henry Mercer as an archaeologist, artist, tilemaker and gentleman architect. As with all of my studios, this one will center on the art of room-making and the need to resolve design intentions on an experiential and material level. The use of full scale media techniques and mock-ups, models at all scales (especially room study models), and evocative perspective drawings (a la Edward Hopper) will be required.