Fall 2012  IARC 4/584 Studio  Interior Architecture Program

Margo Grant Walsh Visiting Professor: Jody Pene, IIDA

Please note: Jody will be teaching this studio three and two times per week—for approximately a third of the term, studio will be taught on a MW schedule for six hours (either 12:50 or 1:60). Students with classes that minimally overlap these times will still be able to take the studio. The schedule of the term will be presented and explained on the first day of studio.

Law Office Design Incorporating Current Design Trends

Introduction:

Today, all types of professional firms are going through changes that affect how they work. In order to stay competitive and define their niche in our rapidly changing times, office designs are influenced by the state of the economy, concerns for the environment and employee well-being, and the necessity of keeping up with evolving technology. Therefore, professional firms are faced with updating their office environments more often and looking for NEW solutions that offer them flexibility and efficiency at reduced costs in order to meet changing needs while facilitating company goals, culture and work processes.

Designers helping a client define interior space to fit their requirements, need to be aware of the current trends affecting the workplace. Different areas of professional expertise are influenced by general trends, and also trends related to specific sectors of work. As well, each individual company has a unique culture and personality that needs to be taken into consideration. It should be the designer’s goal to create the best design solution possible that is also uniquely tailored to each individual client.

Course Summary:

In this studio, we will focus on designing a law firm interior incorporating the current trends in law office design. In the last ten years the templates for law office design have changed dramatically. Hierarchical layouts based upon status are giving way to smaller footprints for private offices allowing for more collaborative spaces and more variety of shared areas. Firms are promoting a more progressive image to the public, reflecting the need to offer the latest technologies and a healthy-green environment in order to attract and retain the best employees.

We will begin by researching and exploring Trends related to such topics as:

- Downsizing, collaboration, team layouts, flexible furniture solutions, sustainability, acoustical and visual privacy needs, technological influences, multi-use areas, down-time amenities and touchdown spaces.

Methodology:

With these trends in mind, the studio group will be going on a day-field trip to Portland to visit several recently completed law firms that illustrate various design solutions responding to many of the trends and issues listed above. Back in the studio, students will research and also each will create a project concept and image statement. Students will then work in teams to develop typical layouts for components of the plan. With these layouts as a guide, we will work as a class to form the project program. Each student will then test the program by doing a “fit plan” in one of two optional buildings. Once the building fit is determined, we will proceed to space planning,
more detailed design of certain areas and aspects of the project and the development of a sustainably oriented color palette and material selection will be integrated.

In this studio students will read and discuss in groups. There will also be experimentation with different kinds of visual and spatial communication through SketchUp models and other hand and digital methods. Team work exercises in the preliminary stages of design and group analysis of optional design solutions will be integrated within the studio format.

Portland as Resource:

During the course of the term, there will be two trips to Portland, including the first week field trip and one for the mid-term review where other professionals will be available to give input.

Useful References with a full reading list to be used during the studio:


http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/changing_spaces/


http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the_new_office/


Instructor Bio:

Jody Pene is a University of Oregon alumnus who graduated with a Bachelor of Interior Architecture from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts in 1972. In her professional career spanning forty years, she spent time initially working in Pittsburgh in graphic arts and interior design and then returned to the West Coast and worked as an interior designer with two of Oregon’s major architectural firms, Boora Architects from 1978 to 1984 and GBD Architects Incorporated from 1984 to 2010. With GBD, she was a Principal for sixteen years and served as the Principal-In-Charge of Interior Design for twelve of those years. Now semi-retired, she has been doing contract work with GBD on special projects.

In her field of commercial design, Ms. Pene’s project types have been wide ranging. Her emphasis has been in Corporate and Professional Office Design with experience also in a variety of other project types such as High-rise Housing, Healthcare, Athletic Clubs and Specialized Retail. Her more recent projects have included corporate and retail related design for NIKE and Columbia Sportswear; condominium common spaces design for Bellevue Towers, and The Meriwether, Atwater and John Ross for the Portland South Waterfront Development Project; and the recent renovation of the law firm of Dunn Carney Allen Higgins and Tongue LLP. Several of her projects have won Portland Chapter AIA and IIDA design awards and have been published in Interior Design Magazine, Interiors Magazine and the American Bar Association Journal. She has participated in two LEED Platinum and ten LEED Gold Certified projects and is a LEED Accredited Professional. In 2009 she served as a design juror for the IIDA (International Interior Design Association) Northern Pacific Chapter Design Awards covering Washington and Alaska.
When not working, Ms. Pene spends the other part of her time at her home in Montone, Italy where she enjoys living and traveling in the Mediterranean region. She is passionate about exploring sites of antiquities, viewing past and present art and architecture, and sketching landscapes with pastels.

Sample law office spaces...