Living/Learning Environments of the 21st Century
Terminal Studio with Michael Pyatok, FAIA

This studio will investigate trends within higher education and the new, emerging role that student housing is and will be playing in the lives of students at both the community college and university levels. The studio will utilize sites for the University of Oregon and Lane Community College to test these emerging educational philosophies. There will be input from the staffs of both institutions.

After researching several centuries of university-related residences, both in the US and abroad, as well as contemporary trends, students will engage in master planning ‘residential/learning communities’ both ‘on-campus’ and within the town fabric. Design efforts will then focus on specific buildings, exploring the significance of today’s emerging lifestyles among the younger generation related to social media, sustainability as an educational opportunity in the operation of residential facilities, and the ongoing integration of educational activities and opportunities within residential life. The different social needs of community college and university students will be examined, as well as between levels within each system from entry level to upper division, grad students and post-docs. Faculty housing will most likely also be a part of this exploration as some university housing trends are reconnecting to the traditions of residential colleges.

As much as this studio will have ‘its feet on the ground’ provided by advice and programs from the institutions involved and the studio instructor, it is also expected to be exceptionally experimental, whose output should reflect the exploratory tendencies of a generation ‘not yet fully absorbed into the system’, architecturally, culturally or socially. These should be on-campus student communities, or student communities integrated into the broader community, as envisioned by today’s students for tomorrow’s students.