A RURAL DESIGN STUDIO:  
A NEW FIELD STATION FOR MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
FALL 2012

The studio project is to develop proposals for a replacement field center for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Located in the southwestern part of Oregon in the great basin landscape, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is one of the oldest wildlife preserves in the United States. Founded under Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to preserve birds that were being slaughtered for ladies' hat feathers, the area has rich geologic formations and a fascinating cultural history. Native peoples, fur trappers, sheepherders, soldiers, ranchers have all inhabited the area. Today it is beloved by birders and naturalists, who have joined the mix.

**Project | Site**  
This studio will focus on replacing the existing field station, an educational facility with overnight lodging, dining, and teaching spaces with their necessary support. Students will propose sites after visiting the refuge.

**Project Design**  
The project design will emphasize three things:  
• Site planning – selecting a site and integrating it with a remarkable landscape  
• Building form and rural character | materials and detail and the evocation of place  
• Innovation in sustainable strategies  
How can the new field center become a model for sustainable and regenerative building? Any new design proposals need to integrate environmental considerations to produce net zero buildings. Design explorations will include siting and orientation, passive / active energy systems, materials and landscaping.

**Required Field Trip**  
The studio will have a required field trip – Thursday pm until Sunday pm at the end of the first week of fall term. Students will need to pay for lodging for 3 nights at the field station ($25 x 3), breakfasts ($10 x 3), sack lunches ($7 x 3) and dinners. At least one dinner will be at the Frenchglen Hotel (about $20). If we can reserve rooms with some cooking facilities, we may have some group potluck dinners for which we bring in groceries. Graduate students may apply for financial assistance from graduate enrichment funds.
**Instructional Methods**
Emphasis will be on a mutually supportive studio environment. Studio work will begin with conceptual design and research investigations and continue into design development, recycling to hone ideas and explore appropriate expression. Work must be developed and shared in the Lawrence Hall studio throughout the term. The required field trip, sketch problems, and precedent studies will enrich individual work in developing design proposals. Class meetings include a variety of communication and project-development formats including desk critiques, pin-ups, reviews, in-class discussions, teamwork sessions, lectures, and occasional field trips. Reviews will be organized so that students revolve through small groups over the course of the term. Design critiques will include feedback from peers as well as the instructor. Students are required to keep design journals as an ongoing recording of studio investigations.

**Critical process issues**
- Conceptual thinking – utilizing imagery, models, drawings, and words to clearly articulate design intentions at each cycle of design.
- Conceptual and analytic diagramming
- Sketching and drawing (both by hand and computer) to explore spatial qualities of site, building, room in plan, section, elevation, and perspective.
- Making models (both physical and digital) to develop three-dimensional design explorations.
- Exploration of materials and color through media.
- Creating final presentation of high quality.

**Evaluation**
Performance in will be graded on a pass/no pass (P/NP) basis only. Student work will be evaluated for achievement in all of the areas listed in the Department of Architecture's studio evaluation form. These forms include a checklist of performance criteria and written evaluations by instructors. At the end of the term, students are required to meet individually with their instructors to discuss their progress and receive their evaluation. Completed evaluation forms are placed in student file; copies are given to students.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let the instructor know so arrangements can be in place. You should also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

**Attendance Policy**
All students are expected to attend all studio meetings, be on time, and stay for the entire scheduled session working on studio activities. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Students with three (3) or more unexcused absences are required to meet with their instructor before returning to studio. Excused absences (such as illness or personal emergency) must be reported to the instructor prior to the missed class if at all possible. Verification of illness forms can be obtained from the Student Health Services.