this is a romantic era of architecture....immoral....superfluous....a great architecture might emerge when the United States economy crashes....we need an architecture of the essential and poetic....
Glenn Murcutt, notes jotted down during his talk at UW, 2008

- **Global concerns**: American housing is going to change radically in the near future. We have seen the first signs of this in the housing market crash, and as behavior starts to shift in response to energy costs. Awareness of, and perhaps a willingness to do something about climate change will accelerate. Architects have set a demanding agenda for themselves with the 2030 Imperative. But we need more than resolve; we must extend our knowledge and skills so that as society shifts towards a more responsible way of dwelling, we have some clear and ready answers. Architecture students should graduate with more than good intentions - we can use this time in school to test new ideas and prototypes, seeing which ones could rebuild and reorient the housing production system. We should respond to global concerns with a range of universal types that can fulfill our changing needs and address our changing circumstances.

- **Local concerns**: But while we architects welcome innovation, everyone else in the housing production process likes the status quo (even here in ecotopia). Most neighborhoods don’t want new housing types or higher density. Government agencies take forever to change codes and regulations. Developers want to keep making money doing the same things. If our proposals are ever to have an impact in the world outside academia, we must learn how to adapt our universal goals and types to meet local concerns and conditions, to reinforce the existing places.

Right now, two cities in the Willamette Valley are attempting to envision their futures, and it is clear that new approaches to housing are essential to meeting their goals. Towards this end, this studio will proceed on two parallel tracks. First, the development of housing types that meet our global demands. Second, working with local residents, authorities and developers to find ways to implement these projects on specific sites and in particular places.

**Premises and goals**

- Sustainable inhabitation of the earth by humans can only be achieved through changing the *typical* patterns of building and dwelling in the modern world, at all scales. Individual signature buildings will not do it.

- Housing and settlement pattern are critical places to focus, perhaps the most critical.

- While housing design must respond to particular parameters (site, market, program), it must also respond to global parameters (building technology, production system, economics, environmental goals).

- Responding intelligently to the global parameters will yield clear housing typologies (at all scales) and systems, which can then be adapted to address local and particular conditions.

- Projects should push the boundaries towards serious environmental response. However, students must demonstrate where their projects fall in terms of technological, social and economic feasibility.

- Students will produce their own programs for their projects, which should reflect their understanding of demographics and market trends in the next 50 to 100 years. Program statements should be overwhelmingly focussed upon housing components; any ancillary uses should be minimal and diagrammatic.

- Working with the Sustainable Cities Initiative in Salem, and the Envision Eugene process, students will select sites from a vetted list, and work with local stakeholders to develop designs which meet the needs of the neighborhoods, officials and developers.

- Much prior work and analysis has shown that low-rise high density is the way to go, for reasons of practicality and sustainability. Target net densities in this studio will be in the 30 units or 75 residents per acre range.

- Studio projects that are too ambitious in scale often fail to reach the desired degree of development, as students spend their time solving problems they’ve inadvertently created for themselves. So specific design projects will be limited in size and complexity.

**Program**

- Development of an integrated set of concepts and types for multi-family housing, and the application of that system to specific sites in the northwest.
Format and Process

- All students in this studio must enroll in Arch 410/510, Housing Design, in fall term. This course will cover current issues, technologies and processes in housing production. Terminal studio students in this course will lead teams comprising other enrolled students, which will research specific topics to be further developed in the studio. Students must be able to pose concrete, critical questions whose answers might drive their designs.
- There are many good projects to see and professionals to talk to on the West Coast about these issues. We will try to schedule studio trips, perhaps ranging as far as San Francisco, early in spring term.

This diagram above shows the most typical process for a terminal studio. However, this studio will follow the diagram below, first addressing global parameters and local concerns, to develop a conceptual / typological kit-of-parts. So inverting the usual studio order, winter term will be for design development, including further refinement of research projects from fall term, design studies of elements and components of typical housing, and the definition of performance criteria.

- This conceptual kit-of-parts will then be used to design particular buildings on real sites: spring term will be for schematic design, including unit, building and site design simultaneously.
- The production of knowledge which can inform design will be just as important as the production of designs. Perhaps studio work could not only develop individual design skills, but might also advance the general state of knowledge in the profession. Deliverables for this studio might include research papers (individually or in groups) as well as building designs.
- Design decisions will be driven by clear criteria, some of them quantitative. Schematic economic and energy modelling will be used throughout the whole process. BIM would be great, if you can handle it.
- Students will be required to analyze and document their proposals using LEED criteria, as if they were to be submitted for certification.

Issues to be explored
The full range of issues as enumerated in the LEED criteria, or the Green Studio Handbook, will be covered. The instructor will also attempt to steer students towards issues he is particularly interested in, such as:
- building envelopes and edges that work technically and socially
- passive heating and cooling strategies (including ventilation)
- open spaces that balance privacy and community
- development patterns which create pedestrian neighborhoods, or enhance existing neighborhoods
- futureproofing and adaptability for changing demands in the next century
- industrialized housing, open building systems, and their appropriate use

Reading list
A short list of references that will enrich your summer:
- Stewart Brand, How Buildings Learn
- NJ Habraken, The Structure of the Ordinary
- Corbett and Corbett, Designing Sustainable Communities
- Jørn Ørum-Nielsen and Mike Pease, Dwelling
- Dan Solomon, Rebuilding and Global City Blues
- Kwok and Grondzik, The Green Studio Handbook