A Green Public/Institutional Building in the Northwest

This studio will take on a yet-to-be determined real project located in a major city in the Northwest: Vancouver BC, Seattle or Portland. We will also consider projects in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project will be an approximately 50,000 – 100,000 square foot public building with a civic or institutional program and a variety of space types. The ideal project will have an ambitious sustainability agenda: a LEED Platinum or Living Building Challenge target.

The goal is to work on a prominent project that is in the early phases of development, and have the opportunity to meet the client and visit the site. Most projects at this stage have an architect on board. We will choose a project that allows interaction with the architect. You will develop your own approach to the project, but also have the benefit of seeing the design professionals’ work.

Studio participants will meet in the fall to help finalize the project selection. This will allow us to pick a project that is alive, at the right stage to benefit from our involvement, and at the right point to gain the client’s attention. Plan on taking a 1-credit independent study during fall term to do preliminary research on green building strategies relevant to the project.

We will travel to the site the first week of winter term. We will likely begin at a site design scale, but quickly move into conceptual building design. We will employ an integrated design approach that is necessary if high-performance architecture is the goal. This means that conceptual ideas must embrace how the building is made and how it works.

Building performance and passive strategies will be considered throughout the design process. The goal by the end of the first term is to complete a schematic design cycle. The second term is devoted to development of the character and material systems, verifying performance goals and producing a comprehensive presentation. We will have support from the Energy Studies in Buildings Lab, which will enable us to explore energy programming, daylighting, natural ventilation, mechanical/electrical and structural systems and energy simulation at a more advanced level. We will include building envelope performance and conceptual cost estimating in our design process.

Specific studio emphases:

- Formulating clear concepts relevant to a real project
- Communicating design concepts in words and images
- Developing the skills and thought processes for effective design
- Exploring expressive media: conceptual graphics, physical models, hand drawings, digital tools
- Designing an urban building that demonstrates a new vision of urban ecology
- Conceiving and developing a building that meets the highest standard of sustainability
This is an opportunity to pull together all that you have learned about design and apply it to a complex, signature building. This as an individual exploration, a statement of your values, insight and capability grounded in a real situation. You are expected to collaborate, participate and actively seek input from me and your peers, and from guest critics and consultants. I am especially interested helping you strengthen your design process and understanding of the making of a building in a way that will be directly relevant to your next steps in the profession, and be a foundation for mature design.

**Fall term preparation**

A 1 credit independent study will be offered in the fall to prepare for integrated green design. All studio members are encouraged required to take *Energy Scheming Arch 498/598* (4 credits). You may want to become familiar with another energy and daylight modeling tool such as Ecotect. You should have the capability to do 3D digital visualization using Sketchup or other similar software, and you should be proficient in CAD or BIM by the time you enter the spring term.