INTRODUCTION

This will be a thesis seminar and studio consisting of projects with student selected sites and programs within the restraints outlined. The focus of the studio will be: “Experiential Harmony”. A Fall term research and programming seminar will be followed by a design studio. During this process, students will be required to select their project site, conduct thorough research including an in-depth site analysis, prepare a program, and develop designs that follow a described process and include full development. The emphasis of the studio will be the development of a complete architectural project strengthened by a focused process.

EXPERIENTIAL HARMONY

Holst studies space through experience and perception. Architecture is seen as the manipulation of three dimensional space based on the requirements of a number of factors: budget, program, structure and perhaps most importantly an innate feeling of harmony.

“The Gestalt Effect refers to the form-forming capability of our senses, particularly with respect to the visual recognition of figures and whole forms instead of just a collection of simple lines and curves.” - WIKIPEDIA

The student will be expected to approach the process by sketching space. Through a continuous process of three dimensional drawings and models, space will be defined from the eye of the inhabitant. A gestalt response is formed and carried through from concept to detail, built on an experiential ideal and relationships with the world. Imagination will be more important during the process than a poetic narrative. The intent behind this studio will be to immerse the student in a direct and visceral ‘experience’ of Architecture, a process by which one is encouraged to engage in the kinesthetic experience of space, light and texture in-order to arrive at beauty and harmony. All criteria for successful design will be measured against the human experience, not theoretical complexity.
PROJECT SELECTION

The studio allows for and encourages different project types:

- REHABILITATION/REUSE
- ADDITION
- NEW CONSTRUCTION

The project should push the boundaries of expectations with building type, site locations and program, while meeting the requirements of the local zoning and building codes. Depending on site location, projects may include both a building and exterior spaces. Exterior spaces will be expected to be included in the overall architectural project. The student will define the building type and size, but the project size and complexity must be enough to warrant the in-depth study that will be expected.

SITE SELECTION

Project sites must be selected from within the Portland urban growth boundary, available through the Metro website.

http://www.metro-region.org

The intent is to allow fellow students, reviewers, and instructors opportunities to visit the selected sites and have advanced knowledge of the area, in order to provide for meaningful discussion. Proposals will need to conform to the requirements of Portland’s zoning code, with possible modifications as would be allowable through the city’s process. Portland Zoning Code, Title 33, can be found through the city’s website.

http://www.portlandonline.com

“TO ME, BUILDINGS CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SILENCE THAT I ASSOCIATE WITH ATTRIBUTES SUCH AS COMPOSITION, SELF-EVIDENCE, DURABILITY, PRESENCE, AND INTEGRITY, AND WITH WARMTH AND SENSUOUSNESS AS WELL; A BUILDING THAT IS BEING ITSELF, BEING A BUILDING, NOT REPRESENTING ANYTHING, JUST BEING...WHEN I CONCENTRATE ON A SPECIFIC SITE OR PLACE FOR WHICH I AM GOING TO DESIGN A BUILDING, WHEN I TRY TO PLUMB ITS DEPTHS, ITS FORM, ITS HISTORY, AND ITS SENSUOUS QUALITIES, IMAGES OF OTHER PLACES START TO INVADE THIS PROCESS OF PRECISE OBSERVATION: IMAGES OF PLACES I KNOW AND THAT ONCE IMPRESSED ME, IMAGES OF ORDINARY OR SPECIAL PLACES, PLACES THAT I CARRY WITH ME AS INNER VISIONS OF SPECIFIC MOODS AND QUALITIES; IMAGES OF ARCHITECTURAL SITUATIONS, WHICH EMANATE FROM THE WORLD OF ART, OR FILMS, THEATER OR LITERATURE.”

- FROM ‘THINKING ARCHITECTURE’ BY PETER Zumthor
This studio will provide the opportunity to select and define your own project. Students will be expected to work extremely hard and produce a tremendous amount of work. While maximum effort will be expected, performance evaluations will be based on what is produced, rather than the effort put into production. Students will also be expected to participate in discussion groups regarding all of the projects within the studio. Involvement will be mandatory to pass. After defining the project site and programming, and conducting further research and analysis in the Fall term, the design studio process will be carefully structured during following terms.

Students should arrive at the beginning of Fall term with a preliminary project proposal (1-2 page statement), including a potential building type and the type of site they are interested in, as well as ample reasoning for such selections. The specific site will be selected during the Fall term following discussions with the instructors and the fellow students.

All students in the design studio are required to enroll in the Arch 407/507 Thesis Prep Seminar (3 units). The seminar will focus on site selection and programming and provide an opportunity for research including site analysis. Expectations regarding the design process will be discussed and explained. A document outlining the project type, location, and site analysis will be prepared as a product of the seminar (feasibility study).

Students will be expected to have an understanding regarding preparation of an architectural program. The seminar assumes students are familiar with research methodology, programming methods, and site analysis.

Regular design studies with pin-ups will take place every week to ten days during the design studio. Occasionally pin-ups will be held at the offices of Holst Architecture and will include reviews from additional staff members.

Expectations will be provided for each phase of work. The use of both traditional and digital media will be expected. Physical study models may also be required during the design studio and seminar, but shall not take the place of graphic representations. Three-dimensional graphic representation will be important study tools for this studio. Three-dimensional graphic representations should be produced via computer modeling and hand drawing. Students will be expected to display strong computer skills. A working knowledge of sketch-up or other modeling software is encouraged prior to the start of the design studio. During the studio duration, students will be required to have an individual critique each week. Additional critique times will be available by appointment. Failure to attend weekly meetings will affect performance evaluations.

A Thesis Book will be required as a final product at the end of design studio, in addition to the traditional pin-up and critique. This should be a thorough presentation that documents the students’ work throughout the entire studio, including the seminar. Final requirements for the presentation booklet will be discussed throughout the Fall term.
ABOUT HOLST ARCHITECTURE

For nearly two decades, Holst Architecture has been contributing to the distinct architectural landscape of the Pacific Northwest. Cultivating a practice that emphasizes craft, principals Jeffrey Stuhr and John T. Holmes guide their agile team of eighteen designers and architects on projects ranging from a mixed-use housing development to the world headquarters for a leading design consultancy firm. Holst designed the urban campus for the Pacific Northwest College of Art, renovated an old motor lodge into a boutique downtown hotel, and designed the interior of one of Portland’s finest restaurants. In all the firm has completed over 100 design and construction projects in the Northwest.

Holst projects have been recognized in numerous publications and won over 20 awards for architectural, interior and public space design, innovation, and livability. In 2008, they received the People’s Choice Award from the International Interior Design Association for the Hotel Modera, and in the same year received a ROOT Design Award for a Conference Room in the AIA Center for Architecture. The same project also earned LEED® Platinum.

What truly inspires the Holst team to create compelling and sustainable architecture is a bona fide affection for their city and its civic-minded culture, the unparalleled beauty of the northwest landscape, and a deep respect for their intrepid clients. As an ENERGY STAR Partner and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, Holst Architecture takes their role as environmental stewards to heart, advocating the principals of true sustainability through actions and design. A clearly defined value system governs Holst’s design methodology and an open, collaborative approach guides the process. Each project is individually conceived and reflects their pursuit of clarity, warmth, balance, and civic responsibility. Simplicity and candor supersedes brazenness to achieve an understated specificity and sophistication that mirrors the time, place and culture in which they practice.

INFORMATION / QUESTIONS

You are encouraged to contact us via email with any questions you may have before selecting this studio.

JOHN T. HOLMES, HOLST ARCHITECTURE
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KEVIN VALK, HOLST ARCHITECTURE
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Students are also encouraged to visit the Holst website at www.holstarc.com for a thorough understanding of the firms work.

JOHN T. HOLMES graduated from the University of Oregon with his BARCH prior to founding Holst Architecture with Jeff Stuhr in 1992. For over twenty-seven years John has been active in the design of public and private places that encourage human interaction. His disciplined and inventive work on mixed-use projects in and around Portland has gained critical acclaim for infill design that responds to its context and facilitates community. John inspires design teams to push boundaries and to never settle for average.

KEVIN VALK is a Project Manager and Designer with Holst Architecture. Kevin joined Holst in 1996 after graduating with his BARCH from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, and has been involved in a wide range of projects during that time, including Rivertec, Hotel Modera and the soon to be completed SunRose Condominiums.