ARCH 4/507
“Eco-Preservation”: Exploring the Relationship between Historic Preservation and Sustainability

It’s been said that the most sustainable building is the one already built.

If that is indeed the case, then the historic preservation field should be widely recognized as the forerunner and main proponent of the sustainability movement. Consensus says that this is not the perception, suggesting a need for deeper explorations into the connections and conflicts between these two activities.

This course is intended to be a ‘full-bodied’ investigation into the relationship between preservation and sustainability philosophies and methodologies. Students will research how ‘green’ is measured, understand what those measurements tend to value, and assess how they might affect historic preservation efforts. Teams of students will be organized to apply the highest methods and goals of both fields to local buildings.

Portland could be considered to be the perfect place for this type of study, as it is a recognized home to a number of historic buildings that have achieved LEED silver, gold and even platinum ratings. Both the sustainability and preservation communities have active followings here, and the relationship between the two is evident in the merger of the City’s Bureau of Planning and the Office of Sustainable Development into the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. Taking part in this course will be leaders within both endeavors, who will join in discussions and lead tours of such projects as the White Stag, the Eco-Trust Building, and the Gerding Theater at the Armory.

Meeting Location: UO Portland Center @ the White Stag
Meeting Day/Time: Fridays: 9am–11:50pm
CRN: XXXXX | Credits: 3 | Grading Options: Pass/Fail

Paul Falsetto is a graduate of both the University of Oregon’s architecture and historic preservation programs, has been practicing in Portland for over thirteen years and is a LEED Accredited Professional. He has presented lectures and written articles on subjects ranging from the philosophical relationship between preservation and sustainability to the consideration of International Modernism as the next historic style. His past teaching experience for the UO includes courses on preservation theory and eco-preservation for the Historic Preservation Program and a design studio for the Architecture Department.