ARCH 410/510 Housing Prototypes

Fall 2008
Department of Architecture – Portland
University of Oregon
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, AIA, AICP
Credits: 3
Time: TH 2:00-4:50 PM
Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course explores modern housing prototypes (1920s – present) with an emphasis on understanding the many and varied factors involved in the production of quality housing. Special emphasis will focus on the review of appropriate housing models for the future, given demands for increased density and responding to diminishing natural resources. Case studies primarily from the U.S., but also from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, will be examined. Issues addressed will include: differences in housing form as a result of density issues (e.g., from s.f.d. to high-rise point towers); site, building, unit design principles; relationship of inside to outside; affordability; housing policy and housing financing; construction technology; zoning and building codes; new and emerging lifestyles (changing demographics); New Urbanism; homelessness; manufactured housing; special user groups (e.g. elderly); social and behavioral factors as form determinants; origins of suburbia and multi-family housing; providing a sense of community, identity, and memorable image in neighborhood design.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Awareness of the many and complex factors involved in the design of various housing types.
• Understanding of the theoretical, traditional, symbolic, practical, and technical considerations of various housing types and their application.
• Ability to analyze and design appropriate housing projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects.

Class attendance and participation
Project #1: Local (Portland area) documentation and analysis (30%) of housing types.
Project #2: Individual Project for 40% of course grade
   ARCH 410: Take-Home Final Exam (or Research Paper)
   ARCH 510: Research Paper
Note: Only students enrolled in 410 are eligible to choose the Take Home Final option.
Project #3: In-depth Case Study (a team project for 30% of course grade) of a significant housing project.

*Note: Students planning on developing a thesis/terminal project with an emphasis on housing may utilize Project #2 as a programming/documentation of their proposed project.

COURSE FORMAT:
Issues will be presented primarily in a lecture format followed by further seminar discussion or student presentations. Guest lecturers and local field trips will also be utilized.

TEXTS:
An expanded course syllabus detailing important issues will be required (at a nominal costs for duplicating); and handouts (at costs of duplicating).