A RURAL DESIGN STUDIO: A NEW CIVIC CENTER FOR JUNCTION CITY
FALL 2010

The studio project is to develop proposals for a new civic center for Junction City. Junction City is a town in Lane County, population 5,460, just northwest of Eugene. Highway 99 bisects the town with heavy traffic and strip development. In May 2010 the town completed a series of workshops to identify two key issues central to the future livability of Junction City: safe routes to schools and downtown revitalization. The studio will use this work as a starting point to explore urbaniy in small towns and develop hypotheses of how architecture can increase both downtown economic vitality and quality of daily life.

Project | Site
This studio will focus on the design of one full block between 7th and 8th Avenues, Greenwood and Front Streets. On this block are located the Junction City Public Library and a Community Services Center, which was once the fire hall, as well as a Quonset building and a water tower. This block has the potential to be transformed into a Junction City Civic Center that would include a new library, a new city hall, community services and meeting facilities.

The project design will emphasize three things:
• Urban regeneration
  The impression of Junction City is of strip development along Highway 99. How can the city reconnect to its historic roots and rebuild a town center?
• Building form and rural character | materials and detail and the evocation of place
  What are meaningful architectural forms for a rural community like Junction City?
• Innovation in sustainable strategies
  • How can the Junction City Civic Center become a model for sustainable development for the town?
    Any new design proposals need to integrate environmental considerations to produce net zero buildings. Design explorations will include siting and orientation, passive / active energy systems, materials and landscaping.

Instructional Methods
Emphasis will be on a mutually supportive studio environment. Studio work will begin with conceptual design and research investigations and continue into design development, recycling
to hone ideas and explore appropriate expression. Work must be developed and shared in the Lawrence Hall studio throughout the term. Required field trips, sketch problems, precedent studies of libraries, city halls and other appropriate building examples will enrich individual work in developing design proposals. Research resources will include the city’s adopted downtown plan (2003) and the Junction City Historical Society (http://www.junctioncity.com/history/). Class meetings include a variety of communication and project-development formats including desk critiques, pin-ups, reviews, in-class discussions, teamwork sessions, lectures, and occasional field trips. Reviews will be organized so that students revolve through small groups over the course of the term. Design critiques will include feedback from peers as well as the instructor. Students are required to keep design journals as an ongoing recording of studio investigations.

**Critical process issues**

Because this studio is invited by the Library Director, Lynn Frost, the Planning Director, Kay Bork and the Community Services Director, Melissa Bowers, there is the opportunity to work with real people on a real problem that is significant to their town. Process issues are particularly important in communicating with people who work in other disciplines than architecture. The studio will emphasize the following:

- Conceptual thinking – utilizing imagery, models, drawings, and words to clearly articulate design intentions at each cycle of design.
- Conceptual and analytic diagramming
- Sketching and drawing (both by hand and computer) to explore spatial qualities of site, building, room in plan, section, elevation, and perspective.
- Making models (both physical and digital) to develop three-dimensional design explorations.
- Exploration of materials and color through media.
- Creating final presentation of high quality.

**Evaluation**

Performance in will be graded on a pass/no pass (P/NP) basis only. Student work will be evaluated for achievement in all of the areas listed in the Department of Architecture’s studio evaluation form. These forms include a checklist of performance criteria and written evaluations by instructors. At the end of the term, students are required to meet individually with their instructors to discuss their progress and receive their evaluation. Completed evaluation forms are placed in student file; copies are given to students.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let the instructor know so arrangements can be in place. You should also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

**Attendance Policy**

All students are expected to attend all studio meetings, be on time, and stay for the entire scheduled session working on studio activities. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Students with three (3) or more unexcused absences are required to meet with their instructor before returning to studio. Excused absences (such as illness or personal emergency) must be reported to the instructor prior to the missed class if at all possible. Verification of illness forms can be obtained from the Student Health Services.