Fabric Architecture

Natural Constructions, Material Systems and Finding Form

3 cr or 4 cr to satisfy Advanced Technical Elective
Tuesday & Thursday 2 - 3:50 PM | LA 278

This course will explore the use of Fabric in Architecture. We will be exploring how fabric structures might be used in the design of contemporary architecture that is respectful and responsive of its surrounding ecology. Students will investigate the use of fabric in architecture through case studies, readings, and small design projects leading to the design of a full scale demonstration pavilion utilizing a tensile fabric structure. Teamwork and collaboration will be encouraged in the design and construction of the demonstration pavilion. Students will be expected to communicate and test their design intentions through various means of simulation and representation including form-finding, digital modelling and physical mock-ups. We will benefit from working closely with a local sailmaker interested in expanding their business to include architectural structures. There will likely be corresponding tutorials throughout the term in the use of digital form-finding software to assist in the development of appropriate structural forms. Students will benefit from having access to a Windows operating system on their computers.