IARC 4/584 Interior Design Studio: Salem Civic Center Redesign
Offered as part of the Sustainable Cities Initiative 2010: Salem Oregon

Instructor: Linda Zimmer
Office 477B Lawrence Hall
E-mail: lzimmer@uoregon.edu

Studio will meet at the conventional 1:00-5:50 MWF slot in the assigned studio space in Lawrence Hall
Student must be eligible for mid-level 4/584 studios
This Studio is worth 6 credits
As with any studio this course is offered on a P/NP basis only

The Salem Civic Center was constructed in the early 1970’s and is an excellent example of civic architecture of that period. As with many buildings of this age, the Civic Center needs to be rethought with regards to the activities it now houses and how the building functions. As the city has grown and changed the administrative services for the city have expanded beyond the capacity of the building, the services have changed and how the staff now work has changed.

Our task in this studio will be to propose schematic ideas for the redesign of the building as a whole and to follow up with a detailed design of one department (public works) that will serve as a prototype for redesign of all the remaining workspaces. We will start by analyzing a program that is currently being compiled by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (ZGF) and will continue to work with ZGF and Salem City staff throughout the term. A parallel architecture studio will also be focused on the Civic Center and we will work with them at the beginning of the term to understand and generate ideas for expansion and/or major changes to the site and building structure. A key aspect of our work will be to focus on generating strategies for fitting out the interiors to make the best use of the existing structure and that can also be modified for use in additions or new structures.

Students will be expected to generate a very detailed design for Public Works that supports the specific functions of this department but also proposes prototypical solutions for lighting, interior partitions and case-goods, furnishings of all types, workstations and accessories. Because this is a real life project some of these solutions may be adopted by the City.

Special Objectives
• to explore design strategies that enhance the sustainability of the new design both from a standpoint of flexibility of use and from a finish materials perspective.
• to explore design strategies to support new and future ways of working for city staff members
• to understand the historical context of the building and to propose a contemporary design that is sympathetic with the character of the existing building
• to explore and engage Wayfinding strategies at the level of the building and the department

Methods of Working
• We will be working closely with city staff and ZGF throughout the term. A fieldtrip to the site is scheduled for Wednesday October 6th and additional travel to Salem may be required during the term
• An iterative process will be stressed in this studio -- students will be expected to generate multiple options for each level of design development from organizational structure to individual elements.
• Special emphasis will be placed on developing a unified visual vocabulary for your project. We will examine theories projects and strategies that lead to highly legible and imagible interiors

"If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor in the first week of the term. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability."