ECOLOGY and the ARCHITECTURAL IMAGINATION

“There is a principal specific to ecology: it states that anything is possible - the worst disasters or the most flexible evolutions.” -Felix Guattari

“We are going to associate the external world with surprises and events, rather than with simply “being there.”” -Bruno Latour

NATURE OF INQUIRY • INQUIRY OF NATURE

This is a speculative, research based seminar that explores the numerous ways ecology can contribute to our imaginative capacities as designers.

A short, intensive exposure to principles of landscape ecology provides a platform for further investigation (landscape ecology is a spatially oriented subdiscipline of ecology that is highly relevant to architectural thinking). We will also discuss a range of theoretical constructs related to ecological design.

The bulk of this seminar entails that each student articulate an attitude toward this topic that will establish a foundation for subsequent design inquiry. Assignments emphasize writing and diagramming, are cumulative and build in complexity, and culminate in a “symposium” on ecological design where individuals will present their “white paper” manifestos.

Note: This seminar for pragmatic visionaries serves as preparatory course for students enrolled in my ARCH 485/468/585/586 winter spring 2009 studio. It is possible to enroll in this seminar even if you will not be a member of my terminal studio. The issues we will be dealing with can inspire design thinking regardless of any specific project you may be working on.