Sooner than you can imagine, you'll be hanging out your shingle as an independent practitioner or working as a designer in a large firm. What will set you apart from other designers? What special qualities of your work will draw clients to your office? Will you create works of great depth, power, and originality, or will you merely mimic the stylistic posturing of the published “form-givers” like everybody else?

You have within you, waiting to be discovered and developed, the raw materials of your own special approach to design, one that is unlike anyone else’s. This workshop will help you identify and amplify these beginnings into a strong, meaningful design philosophy that is uniquely your own. First, we will explore our innermost resources: the special places where we played as children, enjoyable journeys that we have taken, architectural fantasies and fascinations that we retain as adults. Then we will discuss other important influences on design: timeless compositional principles, the richness of construction materials, the inspirational simplicity and directness of vernacular architectures, the spatial and formal enrichments that can come from a building’s structural system. Finally, we will begin to extract and assemble from these raw materials those things that matter most to each of us. These will be the seeds of the personal philosophy of architecture that you will spend the rest of your life developing.

Enrollment is open to anyone at any level of studio who is intellectually curious, can make legible sketches, is able to distinguish substance from style, and participates eagerly in discussions.

*Note: Participants pursuing the Technical Teaching Certificate may earn credit toward the certificate by completing a special assignment in addition to the general requirements of the course.