a private home. the presentation of the private self. this term’s project is to design such a house. the library of a writer, located in soglio, a mountain village in switzerland. a 630-square-foot interior reduced to one man’s essentials -- books and a place to write, a pantry, a ba, a place to rest, and a space to host. a simple but enchanting arrangement, entirely practical, in a rare case of architecture as muse.

university of oregon department of architecture spring 2009
arch 4.584 interior design studio 6 credit hours
esther hagenlocher assistant professor

take a closer look!
course format
+the students will work individually
research and readings
+in terms of the swiss culture and architecture
+in terms of libraries throughout history, more the cultural, anthropological side of it

01 site
the challenge lies in adapting the structure to a new use while honoring the quality and spirit of the neighborhood and the historical setting.

02 program
the project is conceived as an unexpected dialogue. the threads of this discourse move between old and new, between growth and design, a dialogue that mediates all of these interwoven elements.

03 prototypes
students will adopt the aesthetics and methodologies of commodity culture and research in order to re-imagine contemporary design. the idea is to acknowledge the standardization required of commodities, to understand the value and usefulness of traditions of fine craftsmanship, and to consider the implications of materiality, color and surfaces, all within the context of contemporary design discourse. the prototypes the students design and produce in models should reflect this. each feature of design is developed in consideration of historical context,

04 interior
the interior honors the details of life, through the accentuation and aestheticizing of the everyday gestures of which daily life is composed.

05 detail
the smaller elements all work in concert within the shell, it’s original structure.

06 craftsmanship
craftsmanship is often seen as a conservative value, yet its employment is central in providing adaptable living solutions, as flexible space-making furniture. craftsmanship is a performative element.

07 appropriate
good craftsmanship does not merely describe the execution of a design, it constitutes a pivotal tactic that informs its efficacy on every level: how it’s read, how it’s used, the impression it leave. Precision of craftsmanship and functionality that will serve as the connective thread to the “quality of life”.

08 responsible
each feature of design is developed in consideration of historical context, but also weighed in light of contemporary design aesthetics and current sustainable practices.