ARCH 607: What is Ecological Design?

“Ecological Design is any form of design that minimizes environmentally destructive impacts by integrating itself with living processes.” –Sim Van der Ryn

Instructor Team:
Brook Muller, Assistant Professor, Architecture Department
Josh Cerra, Environmental Designer and Project Ecologist, Herrera, Inc.
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The Ecological Design Center

1 Credit • CRN: 36824

Meeting Times:
• April 2-5: HOPES Conference (specific sessions TBD)
• Monday, April 6: 5:30 PM to 7:50 PM
• Saturday, April 18: 10:00 AM to 4:50 PM

Seminar Description
The focus of this seminar is on the integration of living processes in design. The purpose is to invite and engage a multiplicity of perspectives related to this topic, with the expectation that each participant develop a critical, informed understanding of how ecologically based approaches can lead to improved design outcomes. It is also intended that each participant develop a short (initial) theoretical position statement and a statement of research interest within the larger realm of ecological design that might positively influence subsequent study and research at UO.

Format
Students enrolled in the seminar are asked to generate a research notebook, read 4 key articles, attend the 2009 HOPES Conference “Think Small,” and participate in two follow-up seminar sessions involving short presentations and discussions. All of these activities are intended to help in the generation of the theoretical position statement and a statement of research interest mentioned above.

The seminar counts toward the Ecological Design Certificate

Images from the fall 2007 “Integrating Habitats” Competition (Portland Metro)