From the Inside: Out
[The architecture between poetry and pragmatism]

Course: Arch 484 / 584  
Spring 2010

Credits: 6
Instructors: Brent Young, AIA  
Mick Richmond, AIA, LEED® AP

IDEA: We will begin this studio by examining three program activities in detail. The goal for each student will be to understand as clearly as possible the spatial structure suggested by one of three interactions: “reading/media”, “viewing/display”, and “viewing/performance.” To take one of these as an example, the idea of “viewing/performance” describes a range of building typologies (such as lecture space, concert hall, nightclub, or arena.) Students will attempt to discover a fundamental structure to these interactions through a process of research and analysis. They will then use that analysis to develop the abstract concept into a spatial construct that is focused, and grounded with the physical, empirical realities of scale, sensory focus, light, shadow, texture, and space.

CONTEXT: The project will occupy an urban site in downtown Portland. Students will analyze the site context in terms of scale, light, shadow, texture, boundary, orientation, access, circulation, culture, microclimate, history, and ecology.

APPLICATION: The construct developed in the IDEA phase will be examined relative to the site/context analysis, and a narrative written to describe some of the myriad ways in which the two could interact. This should result in a clear understanding of what conflicts occur, how the program/site are complementary, and finally, a set of hypotheses about how architecture can emphasize the positive interactions, and mitigate the negative. Programs will be provided that are focused on one of the three typologies set in the same site, each with similar support spaces. As architecture exists as mediator between the realms of site and program, empiricism and narrative, history and mythology, it simultaneously binds and contains the pragmatic and the poetic, the technical and the profound. This studio will explore the degree to which a clear initial concept or archetype successfully informs and binds function and form.

ABOUT the Instructors:

Brent Young is an architect and educator with a balance of hands on construction knowledge, design experience, and academic involvement. He brings an international perspective to his work, having travelled extensively throughout the world and having worked on buildings in countries such as Singapore, Angola, Quito, and Pakistan. Brent earned his BS in interior design from San Jose State University and his Master’s degree in architecture from Syracuse University. His teaching experience includes design, drawing, and structures studios at Portland State University as well as serving as a critic at several universities. Brent is currently a Project Architect and Designer at Yost Grube Hall architecture in Portland.

Mick Richmond is a LEED accredited architect, originally from Florida. He earned a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida, and a Master of Architecture from the GSD at Harvard University. In addition to architectural practice, he has worked as a furniture designer, a museum exhibit designer, and a musician. He has taught Design at the University of Florida, has been an invited lecturer and juror at the University of Florida, and a juror at U of O and PSU. Since 2001, he has pursued a focus on sustainable design and building technologies, and is a coordinating member of the Portland AIA Committee on the Environment. Mick is currently a Project Architect at Yost Grube Hall Architecture in Portland.

The following YGH professionals will also participate in studios and reviews:

Richard Grace, AIA  
Adonica Marshall, AIA, LEED® AP
Edward Running, LEED® AP  
Sarah Weber, LEED® AP
Jonathan Bolch, AIA, LEED® AP  
Miles Woolfert, AIA, LEED® AP
Meredith Curran, IIDA, LEED® AP  
Michael Thraillkill, AIA, CSI, LEED® AP
Lona Rerick, AIA, LEED® AP  
Linda Cameron, AIA, LEED® AP