Architecture schools do not do a very good job in educating the general public: most classes are for majors only; midterm reviews are not publicly posted; final reviews (arguably our best public venue) occur just once a term. And yet the need for a highly informed general public is great. They are the clients, developers, consumers and possible patrons of the arts for architects. To that end, this new Civic Center will be charged with educating the public on an everyday basis. It will do so in the following ways:

The building, by its own design, will illuminate great architecture.
In addition to containing key rooms and spaces for educating the public, it is intended that the building itself will exemplify architecture at its highest level of art and integration.

Key categories of design integration will have their own evolving galleries.
Galleries will include but not be limited to: an historical timeline of architecture; great rooms and their spatial structure; sustainable principles in building design; the profound integration of structure and materials; daylight and poetics in architecture, and a rotating profile of significant architects and their work.

A Presentation Hall(s) will provide a Public Forum
This hall will serve as a venue for major lecture presentations and architectural conferences, as well as a room(s) for public design participation through discussion, design charettes, and weekend seminars.

Site
The site will be located on an urban infill site in Portland, Oregon, as yet to be chosen.

Media as Method
All work done prior to midterm will be freehand drawings and models--emphasizing the experiential point of view. After midterm, hybrid computer and freehand drawings and models will be encouraged.