The Window: Perception and Performance

ARCH 496/596
CRN 39742/39743

It could be said that life happens at the windows – it’s where children wait for their parents to return from work. It’s where people position their desks and reading chairs. It’s the mouth of a cool breeze on a stifling summer day.

Windows are the site of a complex relationship between inside, outside, and the occupants of a building. Windows, when thoughtfully arranged, can provide sequences of views and rhythms of light. A single window can simultaneously bring light, delight and surprise. The window’s role as a visual and thermal connector makes it a rich and compelling element of building design.

This course will explore these ideas through a hands-on approach – each lecture will be accompanied by a physical demonstration and design exercise. We will discover how to start with an idea about windows and use it to shape a whole building. We will discuss metrics for performance and pleasure, as well as investigate geometry, light, view, and heat transfer.

Grading in the class will be based on participation in discussions and the exercises completed throughout the term.

Instructor:
G.Z. Brown
103 Pacific
346-5647
LA 206
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10 am - Noon

4 Credits/optional

Prerequisites:
For undergraduates: ARCH 284
For graduates: none

“What should the duet of the future be? How will we resolve the tension between the conceit of the wall - our desire to separate, and the humility of the window - our acknowledgement of our connectedness?”

- G. Z. Brown