GOOD BONES/GREEN INTERVENTION
IARC 484/584 Interior Design Studio: Detailing
Linda Zimmer

Site:
In this project we will be experimenting with building(s) that would be classified by Stuart Brand as “Low Road”. Low Road buildings generally have little architectural merit or historic significance, but because of this, they are often easy and non-controversial to manipulate and change. In this case we will focus on an abandoned garage bay building and/or light industrial structure. Built cheaply and organized according to a simple repetitive bay system these are by nature “permissive”, that is, easy to modify, generous in size and highly permeable.

Program:
GOOD BONES is the working name for our program, a veterinary clinic and animal kennel for “doggie daycare” and/or overnight stays.
The program includes large and small, sterile and dirty, conditioned and open-air spaces. A prime intention is to work with the building to create a highly economical and sustainable space for the vets, their clients and the animals that visit the clinic. Students should be prepared to experiment with building skin and systems as well as interior elements and finishes in order to maximize daylight, minimize energy use and create a clean and healthy interior.

Objectives/Methods:
We will work from spatial concept through design details and finishes in this space. At the beginning of the term we will experiment with many small models to define inside/outside, subtractions/additions, and changes in skin (but not bones). As the term progresses, we will focus on detailing with simple durable materials and inexpensive construction methods.

Daylight and natural ventilation were critical to warehouse/industrial uses in the past and are in this project as well. While large openings offer opportunities for natural light exam rooms, lab and surgery center will also require careful designed task lighting.

As with any interiors studio, we will concentrate heavily on fitting out the space with non-structural design elements, custom designed elements, finishes, and furnishings.

Clinic spaces tend to need special attention for wayfinding and orientation. To that end, graphics to help humans navigate the space and for branding purposes will be a part of this project.

Students in Architecture, especially those working toward a minor or specialization in interiors could benefit by the varied scale and focus on sustainable interventions offered in this studio.