The Public Life

Buildings for public institutions are the core elements of our shared infrastructure and repositories of cultural memory. Schools, universities, law courts, public museums, libraries, city halls, hospitals: these buildings represent our societal aspirations and are the stages where the rituals and dramas of our public lives are played out.

This studio will explore a broad range of architectural themes and issues through the design of a 60,000 SF institutional building in an urban context. The programmatic complexities of a specific building type will be explored in detail with an emphasis on how it might evolve beyond the current accepted typology. Students will focus on the intricacies of plan/section relationships while developing 3 dimensional models that reflect and articulate the program, shape exterior open space and respond to surrounding circumstances. Beyond functional relationships, the work will require the consideration of the cultural meaning of the building and the architectural consequences in form, expression and materiality.