LOCATION

Vancouver, British Columbia, with its stunning backdrop of mountains and sea, is a multi-cultural, dynamic metropolis and seaport with a population of almost two-and-a-half million. The city is known for its high-density urban planning, mixed-use anti-sprawl development, exciting architecture, and numerous parks and public open spaces. Based on its location, scenic beauty, cultural diversity and urban amenities, Vancouver is widely considered to be one of the most livable cities in the world.

Granville Island, home to a public market, cafés, restaurants, a lively arts community and thriving industry, is one of the most exciting and vibrant places in the city. Reputed to be one of the “world’s great public spaces,” it will serve as the site for both the urban and architecture design projects, and is the location of the academic and studio facilities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Students will follow an integrated design-based academic program of four coordinated courses. The two seminars involve design projects, and students will therefore be engaged in environmental design at diverse levels of scale: an island-scale urban design problem, comprehensive building design, and the design of kinetic building systems and details.

ARCH 4/584  Advanced Architectural Design Studio
Comprehensive design of a large, mixed-use public building for a major site on Granville Island, with particular attention paid to how the building helps to realize specific planning goals while maintaining the mandated industrial character of the island.

ARCH 4/507  Urban Design and Programming Seminar
In addition to a general study of the architecture and urban design of Vancouver and Granville Island, principal activities include an urban design charrette (addressing real site-specific planning issues on the island) and building program definition and development.

ARCH 4/507  Kinetic Architecture Design Seminar (advanced technical elective)
While exploring the world of architecture-in-motion, the core assignment will be the integrated design of a kinetic mechanism for a building. Project types can range widely, from operable enclosure devices to building elements that move for aesthetic purposes.

ARCH 4/524  Advanced Media for Design Development
Digital media techniques that support the architectural design process (particularly for the kinetic architecture design projects), focusing on Solidworks, a powerful 3D mechanical design automation software package with integrated modeling and analysis capabilities.

FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Emily Carr University of Art and Design will be host institution for the program. Our design studio will be located in their Granville Island buildings, and students will have access to their excellent studio, shop, computing, and rapid prototyping facilities. We expect that ECUAD students in industrial design, product design, and sculpture will be participating in the Kinetic Architecture design seminar.

Student Housing. Students will be staying in shared rooms in two locations, one in Vancouver’s colourful West End, and the other at Jericho Beach, along the West Point Grey waterfront. Both Hostelling International facilities offer fully equipped self-catering kitchens, laundry, common rooms, seminar rooms, Internet access (kiosks and free Wi-Fi), TV rooms, and bicycle rental and storage. Linen, bedding and towels are provided.

PROGRAM DATES: Monday, April 5th to Saturday, June 19th, 2010
Program Director: Stephen Duff