This Portland-based seminar is inspired by the architect James Wines’ query, “What is the goal that is the basis of your passion?” It is also motivated by the landscape architect Randolph Hester’s conviction that creative opportunity is to be found in areas of conflict. Lastly it is based on a recognition that economic downturns are times of theoretical soul searching.

What compels you first and foremost as a student of architecture? What is currently thwarting the advancement of this interest? What research methodologies and informed constraints can you employ as a designer and thinker that will enable you to cultivate this interest?

My role in the seminar is to help you articulate an architectural conviction and steer you to resources that will enable you to pursue it.

The seminar is organized much like a conference. To begin, participants will submit abstracts - short statements of interest formatted as research hypotheses - that will be subject to peer (and my) review. Participants will develop abstracts into white paper ‘manifestos.’ The seminar culminates a mini-conference “Rethinking Architecture” where designer scholars will present their research findings in theme-based symposium sessions.

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