Variations on a Building: Fabrication
IARC 484/584
Zimmer

Two studios propose adaptive reuse of the Historic Kennell-Ellis Building

Program:
By focusing on textile fabrication processes as both a form generator and a program we will explore how textile fabrication methods including: cutting, mending, piecing, weaving, and stitching can provide inspiration for re-cycling and remodeling the Kennell-Ellis Building. The Program, a Textile Arts Center will serve as a hub for numerous local textile artists, hobbyists and students who are interested in textile arts. Fabrication equipment, classes and visiting artists bolster opportunities for hands-on exploration and small-scale production for all manner of functional and decorative textile products. Included in the program will be shared studios for production (dyeing, weaving, etc) as well as workshop, lecture and library spaces, a small retail space, and accommodations for visiting artists.

Building:
Built in 1947 the Kennell-Ellis Studio building stands on the corner of Willamette and 13th Ave. With its strong horizontal focus, smooth continuous lines and rounded corners, this building is an excellent example of the Art Moderne Style. Architect Robert Wilmsen Graduate of the UO School of Architecture, designed this building. Originally a department store and Photographer’s studio the building has subsequently housed many different tenants including a comic store, hair salon, and a Sherwin Williams paint store. Currently large portions of the building lie vacant. Reinventing this multi-use building as a Textile Arts Center will create a unified identity while still allowing for independent functions.

Objectives/Methods:
This adaptive re-use project will require a rigorous analysis and response to existing building style, structure and fabric by both studios together and separately. Scope and scale of building intervention will vary with student expertise and level in IArch. or Arch. program. Program development is a critical element of this studio. Students will work in teams to develop alternative detailed programs based loosely on the Textile Arts Center in NYC. First person interviews and studio tours here in Eugene. will supplement program development. Conceptual design will focus on unifying the building, strengthening internal and external connections and supporting community through innovative use of space. Visual and Spatial development will focus on strategic interventions, new and old, parts and whole. Advanced students, Will carry interventions into construction detailing. Color, Pattern and texture are inherent in fiber arts and as such will figure prominently in design development.