ARCH 439/539 Minimal Dwelling

Winter 2014 / Department of Architecture – University of Oregon / Eugene

Instructor:  Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Time:  Mondays 6:00-8:50 PM in 206 Lawrence Hall / Credits:  3
Prerequisites:  Junior Standing.  Open to all majors (Design background preferred)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examination of the design of small dwelling units for a variety of user groups and special situations.

SPECIFIC FOCUS:
This course is a combination lecture, seminar, and workshop in the examination of small unit design at higher densities as a strategy to deal with compact growth and affordability.  In addition, shelters for the homeless, disaster-relief housing, migrant farm worker housing, S.R.O. hotels, capsule hotels, and modular/prefab homes will be examined.  The course will review various examples of small unit design and students will research, design, and/or construct prototypes, depending on individual student interests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation.  Although there are recommended reading assignments, and one book for purchase at the UO Duck Store, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects.  Note, the format of the class has been relaxed from previous terms when five weekly projects were required.  This term, three bi-weekly (every two weeks) projects will be required (so you are not in a constant charrette mode).  For the two-week exercises, each team will be able to choose three from a list of six minimal dwelling types (e.g., ADU, Small Cottage House, Disaster Relief, Temporary Homeless Shelter, Micro-Unit, Pre-Fab).  Project due dates will be staggered (e.g., half the class presenting one week, the other half the next week during the term).  If you choose a design project for the primary project (40%), it should be different from one of the three bi-weekly projects.

For ARCH 439 (undergraduate students)
• Case Study or Research Paper or design:  40% as an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 3 bi-weekly @20% each) designing and/or building various prototypes:  60% total in teams.
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (undergraduate) student groups.

For ARCH 539 (graduate students)
• Research Paper or design w/ a research component:  40% as an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 3 bi-weekly @ 20% each) designing and/or building (scale models) various prototypes: 60% total In teams
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (graduate) student groups.

NOTE:  The last short exercise projects will be due and presented on Monday, February 17 and February 24.  The primary project (40%) will be due and presented on Monday, March 3.
March 3 is the last class period and this is the end of the course.  No final exam week requirements.

COURSE FORMAT:  The course meets once a week for almost three hours each week.
• 1st hour:  Presentation of weekly topic by instructor
• 2nd hour:  Student peer group break-out discussions of next weeks project
• 3rd hour:  Student group presentations of bi-weekly assignments