GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY: IN DETAIL

Instructor: Donald Corner 262 Onyx Bridge
Meeting Time and Place: Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00-12:00. Room: 279LA
Format: Investigative seminar.
Credit Hours and Grading: 4 credit hours, optional grading.
CRN: 28200/28204
Prerequisites: ARCH 4/570, 4/561, 4/562, 4/591. 4/592 Completion of ARCH 4/571 prior to the seminar will be a significant advantage.
Required Texts: Edward R. Ford, The Architectural Detail Additional reserve readings as the term progresses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This seminar will examine changes in materials and techniques of construction stimulated by the increasing demands of environmentally responsible design. The medium of exploration will be the architectural detail.

COURSE PROCESS:
The celebrated volumes by Edward Ford, Details of Modern Architecture, I and II, explore the history and theory of the modern movement through the systematic development and discussion of details from iconic buildings. In this course we will apply a similar investigative approach to contemporary buildings that embody meaningful changes in the way we select and apply materials in response to the evolving criteria of ecological design. Professor Ford, in his subsequent book, The Architectural Detail, offers five definitions of the detail:
The abstracted or invisible detail
The detail as a fragment in which the whole building is represented
The detail as an articulation of structure
The detail as an articulation of construction
The detail as autonomous design
Do these characterizations remain valid or useful in reference to green design? Are there new definitions to be considered? Has the expression of sustainability simply replaced the articulation of structure? Are green details decorative motifs or true markers of performance? What are the iconic buildings of our present age? Are new attitudes toward material and construction assemblies represented by these buildings? What do their details have to teach us about the evolution of our building vocabulary?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Working alone and in groups, members of the seminar will build digital and physical, 3D models of details from buildings that evoke and express sustainable design, theory and practice. These details will be reviewed and discussed by the whole group leading to summary evaluations of their potential significance.

Field trips to Portland may be included in the seminar.