NEW FIRE STATIONS – MEDFORD, OREGON

ARCH 484/584

“A part of SCI: Sustainable Cities Initiative SCYP 2013-14”

“...the world is full of ideas and you don’t need always to look for new ones; you may develop existing ones.”

A Aalto, The Mark of the Hand, Charrington & Nava

The fire department in Medford, Oregon has 5 fire stations. Four of these stations need to be replaced. The accommodations for the fire fighters and the apparatuses are inadequate for today’s needs. The program for each of the proposed fire stations is the same, but the sites, distributed around the city, are quite distinct.

This studio will focus on taking a straightforward approach to organizing the building, and then concentrate on developing the scheme. The issues that will be stressed include: the context, the site, the structure, the construction, and, how to do these sustainably.

The program is a fire station with accommodations for up to 6 firefighters. For these people the fire station is both a second home and a work place. These people need the same program components that they would for a house, places for cooking, eating, sleeping, bathing and relaxing. They also need appropriate spaces for meeting, storing and cleaning their gear, and for their equipment. They need ease of access from all parts of the building to the fire fighting vehicles. At the same time, a fire station is a civic building. It is a part of its community, and at times is it is a place for the community.

This studio is a part of the Sustainable City Year. We will be taking a field trip to Medford to meet the fire fighters, tour the city, and explore the sites. We will meet with the fire department representatives a number of times during the term. We will present the design solutions both in Eugene, and in Medford. In addition, we will study precedents to learn as much as we can in short order. We will talk with architects who have designed fire stations, and we will have them review our work.

The final presentations will be done in such a way that they can be given to the fire department for their future reference.

This studio will work with Jim Givens’ studio; sharing resources, field trips, and pin ups.