IARC 4/588 Interior Design Comprehensive Studio: Individual Comprehensive Projects

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Studio will meet at the conventional 1:00-4:50 MWF slot in the assigned studio space in Lawrence Hall  

Students must have completed IARC 4/545 Comprehensive Project Prep to enroll in this studio  

This Studio is worth 8 credits, extensive individual programming, research and writing are required in addition to the typical studio workload  

As with any studio this course is offered on a Pass/No Pass Basis

This student directed comprehensive project gives each Interior Architecture student a forum to explore ideas and issues that are important to them as a designer, to further develop and demonstrate knowledge and skills from previous coursework and to develop a strong independent research and design process.

In this course students develop a schematic design proposal for individual design projects that they defined in the Comprehensive Prep Course in the Fall. Written explorations, applied research, and design investigations are combined with design investigations this term. Students have thus far completed a formal proposal (fall term) that included selection of a site (existing building), development of a schematic program and a series of individual goals and theoretical questions. At the beginning of the term students will document and analyze the site relative to the program. It is expected that additional research and analysis including (but not limited to) precedent studies, occupancy and activity studies, adjacencies and the like will also result in development of the spatial and organizational requirements as outlined by the program. This term will culminate in a design proposal that is roughly equivalent in scope to a traditional 4/584 studio. However, the developing program and individual “thesis questions” will demand deeper investigations as well as a more comprehensive outlook by student designers and critics.

Special attention will be paid this quarter to the context of individual sites (existing buildings) and the possibilities inherent in each project. We will analyze the qualities of the surroundings, the shell and the structure to propose new creative possibilities, including new construction and/or partial demolition of existing building fabric. Students will be expected to generate several design concepts that consider program, theory, and technical issues and to analyze each concept through diagrams and writing. The focus this term is to explore the design project as a whole and to generate a single proposal that is a creative response to program and existing building. This proposal will form the basis for the design of individual spaces and details in the following term and as such needs to effectively address large scale planning issues, building codes, and ADA guidelines.

Special Objectives

- to develop a detailed program for your project using first person research techniques as well as secondary sources
- to independently analyze site and program elements and creatively respond to these in your schematic design concept
- to generate and analyse multiple alternative designs
- to integrate previous studio and subject area knowledge into your work and to develop an effective independent design process.

Methods of Working

- diagrams and drawings will be used extensively as analytical tools as well as generative tools
- writing is an important part of the studio. Students are expected to be develop capabilities in writing problem statements, organizing complex program data and integrating graphic and written information.
- each project will have unique demands and methods of exploration. Students are expected to develop a semi-autonomous design process that allows them to effectively explore design solutions through a variety of 2 and 3-D media.
- The contribution to group discussions and reviews by all students is critical in this course. Students will be expected to develop an independent outlook and grow as designers through critiques of peers work.