One of the goals of this studio is to design a building that is both NEW and OLD. Fonthill was finished in 1912, constructed out of reinforced concrete laid up bucket by bucket over a pulley system drawn by a horse named Lucy. We will be proposing a new building, also out of reinforced concrete, that will consolidate several programs:

- we will consolidate the current administrative offices that occupy much of the current NE wing of Fonthill into the new facility;
- we will establish a new visiting/orientation center that will serve to arrange for tours, and will manage a DVD overview of the history of Mercer and Fonthill;
- we will include a large reception hall for the special events (especially weddings in the Summer-time) that happen on the property. (The large white rectangle in the aerial view above is a permanent “temporary” structure that houses the wedding ceremonies to date).
- we will also establish gallery space for changing exhibitions regarding the history of the area, its folk art, the tree conservancy on the property and rotating shows that illuminate Mercer’s design process and principles, his use of imagery, and his careers as an archealogist, historian, tilemaker, and gentleman architect.

As with all of my studios, this one will center on the art of room-making and the need to resolve design intentions on an experiential and material level. The use of full scale media techniques and mock-ups, models at all scales (especially room study models), and evocative perspective drawings (a la Edward Hopper) will be required.