While Portland has an art museum, the anticipated growth of the population over the next twenty years suggests that a new and more specialized museum is desirable. The site chosen for the Museum of Modern Art is in Portland’s center, at the corner of Broadway and Burnside. The site is approximately 34,000 sq. ft., necessitating a more vertically organized museum than would normally be the case. However, the symbolic importance of the position within the city trumps the practical considerations of a larger site. The site is also adjacent to “Big Pink” the US Bancorp Building, the tallest building in Portland. The new museum will provide a number of services:

- Studies of the edge of N. Burnside and S. Broadway to make the streets more pedestrian oriented.
- Plans to compensate for the overly large size and scale of the adjacent bank building.
- Develop a strong character for the museum that supports further development in the area of Burnside and a memorable building identity.
- Develop a museum demeanor that welcomes and encourages a wide spectrum of city residents and visitors to use and identify with the building. The program will specify diverse activities that will connect art and children, young adults and the general population.
- The form of the building will convey (symbolize) what the relation of art to society could/should be.

The first week of the class will include looking at recent and historic art museums in teams of two. The students will present the precedents to the class for discussion.

The second week of the class will include proposals to improve Burnside and Broadway.

The remainder of the term will be the museum design.