Material Considerations

This studio will offer the opportunity to explore materials and construction methods as the primary generators of form in a small building complex. The program and site requirements will be carefully controlled to permit a focus on the development and detailing of the structures themselves.

The subject of study will be a new winery in development on gently rolling vineyard lands north of Salem. In an effort to establish an identity for the label, winery owners often make significant investments in tasting rooms and social spaces adjacent to the production facilities. From the raw gabions of Herzog & de Meuron to the robotically placed facades of Gramazio & Kohler, wineries have recently provided a vehicle for innovation in construction method. The results can be evocative of both place and process, providing the visitors with unique and memorable experiences. The challenge in this studio will be to propose such buildings, rooted in the opportunities of the site and expressive of their making.

Expectations of the studio include:

- Detailed case studies of typological precedents and construction systems.

- Generation of numerous schematic design options using appropriate sketch media.

- Testing of material alternatives through the development of evocative physical models at a variety of scales.

- Integration of the constructive means of the building with the character of place and space identified for the scheme.

- Thoughtful and patient exploration of the building structure, enclosure and interior fittings to the level of explicit details.

There will be a full day of site visits scheduled for October 3rd, the first Friday of the term.

Photo credits:

Sokol Blosser Winery, Allied Works Architecture
Volumetric studies, Allied Works Architecture
Dominus Estate, Herzog & de Meuron Architects
Gantenbein Vineyards, Gramazio & Kohler Architects
Building section, Traverso Vighy Architects