A RURAL DESIGN STUDIO:
HANCOCK FIELD STATION, OREGON
OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry)
ARCH 4/584 - FALL 2014

The studio project is to develop proposals for the Hancock Field Station, the home of the Oregon
Museum of Science and Industry’s eastern Oregon education programs. OMSI is interested in exploring
options for this site that where they have operated science education programs for children since 1951.

Project | Site - making a unique learning environment in the Oregon high desert
This studio will focus on designing an outdoor exploration and educational facility with overnight lodging (100 beds), dining, and teaching spaces and their necessary support for a range of outdoor education programs for school children, families and specific groups like the Oregon Mineralogy Society or the Rogue City Astronomers.

The site is a 10-acre parcel that OMSI owns, that is surrounded by National Park Service land of the John Day National Monument. The buildings on the site are a motley set, including cabins repurposed from the Rajneeshpuram community in the early 80’s.

Project Design
The project design will emphasize three things:
• Site planning – laying out buildings and outdoor activity areas in a rural area
• Building form and rural character | materials and detail and the evocation of place – developing a building vocabulary inspired by the mission to educate children and families in outdoor science settings and the unique character of this section of the Oregon high desert
• Innovation in sustainable strategies
How can the Hancock Field Station become a model for sustainable and regenerative building? Any new design proposals need to integrate environmental considerations to produce net zero buildings. Design explorations will include siting and orientation, passive / active energy systems, materials and landscaping.

Required Field Trips
The studio will have several required field trips. The first has a cost of $100 per student that includes lodging and food for a trip beginning Friday, October 3rd, returning to Eugene, Sunday, October 5th. There will be some transportation costs as well. In addition, there will be two reviews in Portland to visit OMSI and benefit from feedback from OMSI staff, one after the midterm on Weds, November 5th and one after the final, Friday, December 5th.

For students who need financial assistance with the field trip costs, there is department Student Financial Assistance, to which students can apply individually. To qualify for this aid, students need to have filed a FAFSA and be on financial aid. Information can be found on the Department’s website under Department Scholarship Information.
Instructional Methods
Emphasis will be on a mutually supportive studio environment. Studio work will begin with conceptual design and research investigations and continue into design development, recycling to hone ideas and explore appropriate expression. Work must be developed and shared in the Lawrence Hall studio throughout the term. Required field trips, sketch problems, and precedent studies will enrich individual work in developing design proposals. Class meetings include a variety of communication and project-development formats including desk critiques, pin-ups, reviews, in-class discussions, teamwork sessions, lectures, and occasional field trips. Reviews will be organized so that students revolve through small groups over the course of the term. Design critiques will include feedback from peers as well as the instructor. Students are required to keep design journals as an ongoing recording of studio investigations.

Critical process issues
- Conceptual thinking – utilizing imagery, models, drawings, and words to clearly articulate design intentions at each cycle of design.
- Conceptual and analytic diagramming
- Sketching and drawing (both by hand and computer) to explore spatial qualities of site, building, room in plan, section, elevation, and perspective.
- Making models (both physical and digital) to develop three-dimensional design explorations.
- Exploration of materials and color through media.
- Creating a final presentation of high quality.

Evaluation
Performance in will be graded on a pass/no pass (P/NP) basis only. Student work will be evaluated for achievement in all of the areas listed in the Department of Architecture's studio evaluation form. These forms include a checklist of performance criteria and written evaluations by instructors. At the end of the term, students are required to meet individually with their instructors to discuss their progress and receive their evaluation. Completed evaluation forms are placed in student file; copies are given to students.

Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let the instructor know so arrangements can be in place. You should also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Attendance Policy
All students are expected to attend all studio meetings, be on time, and stay for the entire scheduled session working on studio activities. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Students with three (3) or more unexcused absences are required to meet with their instructor before returning to studio. Excused absences (such as illness or personal emergency) must be reported to the instructor prior to the missed class if at all possible. Verification of illness forms can be obtained from the Student Health Services.