Athletic Facilities as a Catalyst for Urban Redevelopment

ARCH 4/585 and ARCH 4/586
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WINTER / SPRING 2015 EUGENE

INTENT OF THE STUDIO
The focus of the studio will be to design a major sports facility (e.g., arena, ball park, stadium) as part of an urban redevelopment district in a mid-size to large city. This is in direct contrast with the isolated stadium in a sea of asphalt parking located in the outskirts of the city seen previously in many cities. Any redevelopment district that is eventually successful is a mixed-use area with a variety of uses (e.g., retail, cultural, housing) but a growing trend is to also include a sports facility as one of the major attractions. These work especially well when the sports facility such as an arena can also be used for major entertainment purposes such as concerts.

As stated by the major sports facility design firm, Populous: “Whether social infrastructure buildings are for sport, culture, education or health their location within the city and the amenity and sphere of influence they have on the surrounding fabric is the basic DNA that underpins an urban structure. An attitude towards social infrastructure and its relationship to the fabric of the city should infuse the approach to master planning and urbanism. Through our experience of sport, culture and other types of social infrastructure we take the approach where these building typologies are the starting point for urbanism.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The studio will be working closely with Populous, formerly HOK Sport. The work of the firm spans over 30 years with over 1,000 major sports facilities as well as master planning/urban design. In addition to its main office in Kansas City, Populous has over a dozen offices in the U.S. and abroad.

At this time, the specific site(s) and program(s) are still being discussed with Populous. It is hoped however to have a few options for students to choose from. One option is a sports facility as part of an urban redevelopment district requiring master planning for the district with possible site options. Another possibility might be one district with more than one sports facility, thus allowing students to choose the facility type they wish to design in detail. Another eventual option might be an opportunity for students to choose a facility type that could be on a college campus. In all possible scenarios it is intended that context be considered with the first half of winter term spent in master planning and urban design. Another major component of any project of this type is the outdoor public realm. In many ways this is the most critical aspect of any major urban area. We will also be working closely with urban designers and landscape architects to assist in developing a holistic design.

While it is not intended that projects in this terminal studio are self-generated by students, it is intended that more than one option for a project type and/or site be available.

STUDIO METHODOLOGY
This studio will be a highly structured, professionally oriented, demanding studio format. It is not intended for those who simply want to complete their degree. Both terms are eight (8) credits and therefore the expectations for achievement will be much greater than the equivalent two-term (typical) ARCH 4/584 studio. A synthesis of all architectural elements (e.g., structure, mechanical systems, sustainability, social and behavioral, landscape) is expected by the end of the spring term.

While there will not be a separate fall programming class, there will be opportunities for meeting during fall term to discuss issues and with independent research. Depending on the final project type(s) and location(s), field trips may be included.