ARCH 439/539 Minimal Dwelling

Winter 2016 / Department of Architecture – University of Oregon / Eugene

Instructor:  Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Time:  Wednesdays 6:00-8:50 PM in 206 Lawrence Hall / Credits: 3
Prerequisites:  Junior Standing.  Open to all majors in A&AA with Design Backgrounds.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examination of the design of small dwelling units for a variety of user groups and special situations.

SPECIFIC FOCUS:
This course is a combination lecture, seminar, and workshop in the examination of small unit design at higher densities as a strategy to deal with compact growth and affordability. In addition, shelters for the homeless, disaster-relief housing, migrant farm worker housing, S.R.O. hotels, capsule hotels, and modular/prefab homes will be examined. The course will review various examples of small unit design and students will research, design, and/or construct prototypes, depending on individual student interests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation. Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects. The class meets once a week for three hours; the format is essentially a lecture/workshop. For the two-week exercises, each team will be able to choose three from a list of six+/- minimal dwelling types (e.g., ADU, Small Cottage House, Disaster Relief, Temporary Homeless Shelter, Micro-Unit, Pre-Fab). Project due dates will be staggered (e.g., half the class presenting one week, the other half the next week during the term). If you choose a design project for the primary project (40%), it should be different from one of the three bi-weekly projects.

For ARCH 439 (undergraduate students)
• Case Study or Research Paper or design: 40% as an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 3 bi-weekly @20% each) designing and/or building various prototypes: 60% total in teams.
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (undergraduate) student groups.

For ARCH 539 (graduate students)
• Research Paper or design w/ a research component: 40% as an individual project. (if a design, could be a team)
• Exercises (total of 3 bi-weekly @ 20% each) designing and/or building (scale models) various prototypes: 60% total in teams
• Review/discussion of weekly assignments will be in small peer (graduate) student groups.

NOTE:  The last short exercise projects will be due and presented on Wednesday, 2/17 and 2/24.
The primary project (40%) will be due and presented on Wednesday, March 2.
March 2 is the last class period and this is the end of the course. No final exam week requirements.

COURSE FORMAT:  The course meets once a week for almost three hours each week, typically as follows:
• 1st hour:  Presentation of weekly topic by instructor
• 2nd hour:  Student peer group breakout discussions of next weeks project
• 3rd hour:  Student group presentations of bi-weekly assignments