

DSGN3100: Architecture Design Studio

Poetics of Material Assembly

Instructors: Keil, Kinnard, Klingman and Tsubaki (Coordinator)



Olivetti Showroom / Scarpa Photo: Tsubaki ©

Introduction:

"And you can make the same conversation with concrete. And you can make the same conversation with paper, or with papier-mache, or with plastic, or with marble, or any material that has its nature. And it's the beauty of what you create that you honor - the material for what it really is. And never say that you use it in a kind of subsidiary way which makes the material itself wonder when the next man will come who will honor its character, you see."

Louis Kahn, "Lecture at Pratt Institute, 1973"

poetic |pō'etik| adjective.

of, relating to, or used in poetry: *the muse is a poetic convention.*

- written in verse rather than prose: *a poetic drama.*
- having an imaginative or sensitively emotional style of expression: *the orchestral playing was colorful and poetic.*

As you are already well aware from your past studies, architecture is first and foremost, about finding spatial, visual and meaningful order within the seemingly chaotic world, that we inhabit. It is rooted in functional, technical, social, environmental and aesthetic considerations. Beyond satisfying basic human needs, architecture can evoke emotional and intellectual responses, employing the phenomenal qualities of physical constructs through masterful use of materials and meticulously crafted details. The pedagogical intention of the studio is to engage all of these fundamental design issues while stressing the engagement with physical materials and their expressive potential as assemblies.

The course employs two distinct modes of investigation, empirical and theoretical: The empirical focuses on the

physical conditions of materials and assemblage. The exploration will be methodically documented, and artifacts will be qualitatively analyzed through various representational means. The theoretical framework focuses upon the speculative investigations of significant building precedents and their material assemblage explored through various representational means.

These methodologies are implemented in the form of discrete design exercises. However they will be explicitly encoded as an exploration on how to manifest the ***in-between spatial conditions*** into an architectural resolution. This is intended to instill new skills while fostering a kernel of ideas along the way, integrating these within the main design project.



600 Esplanade Photo: Tsubaki ©

Course Information:

Name: Architecture Studio

Number: DSGN3100

Narrative: The charge of the third year fall semester is to extend and reinforce the focused lessons, themes and skills from previous design studios and to prepare students for the comprehensive integration in the following spring. Additionally this studio provides the first focus on the material reality of buildings. It emphasizes how material selections and material assemblage/detailing are paramount in manifesting the architect's design concepts and the experiential presence of the building.

Prerequisite: DSGN2200

Credits: (6) semester credit hours

Meeting Place: RMEM 402(UG)/301(GR)

Meeting Time: MWF 01:00-05:00 PM

Instructor Information:

Irene Keil, RA

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RMEM107

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RMEM409

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RMEM109

Kentaro Tsubaki, RA (coordinator)

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RMEM120

Featured NAAB Student Performance Criteria (2009) :

A.5 Investigative Skills: Ability to gather, assess, record, apply, and comparatively evaluate relevant information within architectural coursework and design processes.

A.8 Ordering Systems Skills: Understanding of the fundamentals of both natural and formal ordering systems and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design.

B.2 Accessibility: Ability to design sites, facilities, and systems to provide independent and integrated use by individuals with physical (including mobility), sensory, and cognitive disabilities.

B.12 Building Materials and Assemblies: Understanding of the basic principles utilized in the appropriate selection of construction materials, products, components, and assemblies, based on their inherent characteristics and performance, including their environmental impact and reuse.

C.2 Human Behavior: Understanding of the relationship between human behavior, the natural environment and the design of the built environment.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- make intelligent building material choices consistent with the appropriate design intent.
- articulate and detail the material assemblies in an appropriate scale consistent with the design intent.
- make siting decisions and intelligent program deployment based on the client criteria and contextual factors.

The result will be documented and demonstrated in physical mock-ups, representational drawings and models, process studies and verbal presentations at formal reviews.

Computer:

Students are required to provide and maintain their own laptop computers for use during the class. See the college website for minimum specifications. Technical difficulties, viruses, crashes, server and printing problems, or corrupted files will not be accepted as legitimate excuses for performance failure. **ALL WORK SHOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY SAVED AND REGULARLY BACKED UP.**

Equipment / Software / Materials:

Digital Camera w/ minimum of (5) mega-pixel resolution.

2D drafting 3D modeling software: AutoCad, Rhino.

2D graphics software: Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat, etc.)

Rolls of white or yellow trace.

Basic model-making materials and tools as needed.

Digital Portfolio:

Students are required to maintain a **meticulous record** of the design process in digital format. Digital files of the process materials (scanned sketches, photos of iterative sketch models etc.) and the final products (presentation drawings, physical and digital models) must be submitted according to specified formats at designated times throughout the semester. Files must be uploaded to the designated course folder on the TSA public server; ftp.arch.tulane.edu.

Readings and Articles:

These will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on the course website.

Environmental Responsibility:

Aerosol paints, spray glues or fixatives, etc. must not be used inside the building. Violators will **FAIL** the course.

Studio Culture:

The Tulane School of Architecture fully supports the studio-based model as central to the curriculum for architectural education and relies on the studio to provide and promote a healthy environment for creative and engaged learning. The design studio is an open environment for the fostering of creativity and engagement in the design process, promoting exploration, innovation and intellectual advancement, and supporting a culture of critical inquiry, collaboration, community engagement, and stewardship among students, faculty and administration. For further details, refer to the TSA Student Handbook posted at:

<http://architecture.tulane.edu/current-students/student-information>

It is strongly suggested that you get into the habit of working in the studio after class hours. Experience has shown that students who work in studio after class hours on a regular basis have a greater degree of success in the course because of the opportunity to discuss, clarify, and exchange ideas and methods with colleagues.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to work regularly and productively in fulfillment of the assignments. In order to receive effective criticism, students are expected to come to the studio with ongoing **committed** analog/digital explorations and/or physical constructs demonstrating commitment to the work. Superficial changes to a project or merely verbal descriptions of an idea **cannot be critiqued**. All work is to be the product of the individual, unless teamwork is required. Students are also expected to integrate knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses.

During group pinups, individuals are expected to carefully listen and absorb critiques directed toward other projects and apply what is relevant to their own work. Not all projects will be addressed comprehensively; instead, new serious and significant design ideas, that contribute to the general progress of the studio merit comment.

Students must work in the studio space during scheduled hours and be prepared to discuss the progress of their work with the instructor regularly (minimum of once per week). Students planning to work in the computer lab must notify the instructor and arrange with another student to notify them

when impromptu studio meetings occur.

The schedule will be tuned from day to day, based on the progress of the class as a whole. Expect to spend a significant amount of time working on your project outside of the scheduled course hours.

Studio Communication:

One of the essential means of studio communication is through University e-mail system. Students are responsible for maintaining active Tulane email accounts and are expected to check their Tulane e-mail minimum of once daily.

Attendance Policy:

Students are responsible for attending class. All absences must be reported to the course instructor; the only excused absences are those for reasons of health, significant outside activity or crisis. Unexcused absences could reduce the course grade, as will late arrival or early departure from class. Three consecutive absences or four nonconsecutive absences will, in normal circumstances, mean that the instructor may give a WF grade to the student. For further details, refer to the academic policies on Tulane School of Architecture website at:

<http://architecture.tulane.edu/current-students/student-information>

Incomplete and Late Work:

In accordance with School policy, work that is not adequately represented will not be discussed in reviews. Additionally, unexcused absence from a review will result in a failure for that portion of the semester. Late work will only be accepted with the permission of the instructor. Work submitted after the final day of classes is not acceptable without written permission from the Dean. Any late work accepted will be penalized 10% for the first day of lateness, and 5% per day thereafter. (The first day of lateness begins immediately after the deadline, and include weekends). Extensions for medical or family emergencies must be requested immediately after the event and in advance of the deadline, and must be supported by adequate documentation.

Academic Integrity:

Tulane University values student self-governance and the development of a strong ethical foundation. The Honor Code is a central element of the University's identity. All academic work must be the result of the student's own efforts, except when collaboration has been explicitly allowed. Any student behavior that has the effect of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance is considered a violation and will be prosecuted through

the procedure outlined in the Honor Code. For further details, refer to the Honor Code on the Tulane University website at: <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>

Civility in the Classroom:

All individuals and/or groups of the Tulane University community are expected to speak and act with scrupulous respect for the human dignity of others, both within the classroom and outside it, in social and recreational as well as academic activities. By accepting admission to Tulane University, a student accepts its regulations and acknowledges the right of the University to take disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, for conduct judged unsatisfactory or disruptive. For further information, refer to the code of student conduct on Tulane University website at:

<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/code.cfm>

ADA Statement:

It is the policy and practice of Tulane University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. No. 101-336), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. No. 93-112, § 504, as amended), and state and local requirements regarding individuals with disabilities. Students who seek accommodation are responsible for registering their disabilities with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling, requesting the specific accommodations they may need and providing adequate documentation that substantiates their disabilities and shows the need for the requested accommodations. For further details, refer to the Overview of Accommodations Procedures for Students with Disabilities on the Tulane University website at:

<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/policies-procedures.cfm>

Grading Distribution and Evaluation:

Exercise A:	10%
Main Project Phase I:	30%
Exercise B:	10%
Main Project Phase II:	30%
Final Presentation:	10%
Digital Folio:	10%

Evaluation of student performance is based upon daily studio process as well as the product. Improvement and growth are the keys. The instructor will conduct his/her expert assessment on student performance following each major stage of the semester. Please note that this is not a mathematically quantifiable assessment. It is based on the experienced judgment of student work. The following general criteria will

be considered: (1) strength of idea; (2) articulation and development; (3) technical competency, clarity, and craft; (4) concise verbal/written presentation; (5) passion, commitment, dedication and work ethic.

A (excellent) exceptional performance; exceeding the requirements of the course, showing strong academic initiative and independent resourcefulness.

B (good) performance above the norm; accurate and complete; beyond the minimum requirements of the course; work demonstrates marked progress and initiative.

C (average) satisfactory work that adequately meets minimum requirements and demonstrates satisfactory comprehension, communication skills, and effort; demonstrates little initiative to investigate the problem without substantial prodding of the instructor and/or work shows little improvement.

D (inferior) unsatisfactorily meets minimum requirements; demonstrates minimum comprehension, communication skills, and effort at an inferior level; initiative lacking and/or improvement not noticeable.

F (failing) does not meet minimum requirements; fails to adequately demonstrate comprehension, communication skills, and effort.



Zuiho-in (Daitokuji) / downspout detail Photo: Tsubaki ©

ATCS3100 FA14 Course Calendar (subject to change/adjustment 11.06.14)

Meeting	Date	Agenda	TSA Events
Week 1			
1	8.25	Introduction and Site Visit Meet at the main gate of the Lafayette Cemetery #1 @ 1PM	Classes begin
2	8.27	Exercise A	
3	8.29		
Week 2			
	9.01		Labor Day Holiday
4	9.03		
5	9.05	Exercise A Review / Program Fit Lecture (Kinnard) RM204 4-4:30pm	
Week 3			
6	9.08	Main Project Phase I (Program Fit - Urban Site)	
7	9.10		
8	9.12		
Week 4			
9	9.15	Main Project Phase I Review	
10	9.17	Main Project Phase II (New Orleans Site)	
11	9.19		
Week 5			
12	9.22		
13	9.24		
14	9.26	New Orleans Water Infrastructure Lecture (Klingman) RM204 1-2PM	09.25.14 AHST3030 Exam I
Week 6			
15	9.29		
16	10.01	Progress Review per Studio (IK 4F Lobby)	
17	10.03	Progress Review per Studio (GR RM404, JPK Lobby North, JK Lobby South)	10.02.14 APFC4100 Mid-Exam
Week 7			
18	10.06	Site Strategies Lecture (Kinnard) RM404 1-2PM	
19	10.08		ATCS4010/6140 Exam I
	10.10	No Class	Fall Break
Week 8			
20	10.13		
21	10.15		
22	10.17		
Week 9			
23	10.20	Phase II Preliminary Design Review (UG Joint review - Favrot Lobby, GR review - RM404)	
24	10.22	Phase II Preliminary Design Review (UG Joint review - Favrot Lobby, GR review - RM404)	
25	10.24		
Week 10			
26	10.27	Materials / Tectonics Lecture (Tsubaki) 1-2PM	
27	10.29		
28	10.31		
Week 11			
29	11.03	Wall Section / Detail Lecture (Keil) 1-2PM	
30	11.05		11.04.14 AHST3030 Exam II
31	11.07		
Week 12			
32	11.10		
33	11.12	Progress Review per Studio (GR RM404, JPK Lobby North, IK Lobby South)	
34	11.14	Progress Review per Studio (GR RM404, JPK Lobby North, JK Lobby South)	
Week 13			
35	11.17	Graphics Lecture (Hickman) 1-2PM	
36	11.19		
37	11.21		
Week 14			
38	11.24		ATCS4010/6140 Exam II
	11.26	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday
	11.28	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 15			
39	12.01		
40	12.03		
41	12.05		Last day of class
Week 16			
42	12.08	Final Review (DOL Deadline: Laser Cut 6:00PM Sat. 12.06 / Print Noon Sun. 12.07)	Exam Period begin
	12.10		
	12.12		
Week 17			
	12.15	Studio Walkthrough	Last day of Exam Period
	12.17	Studio Cleanup / Move Out	