

Fall 2007

Architecture+Design 600

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Architecture+Design 600

Syllabus, Fall 2007

A. General Information

Course Number / Course Title: ARCH-DES 600 / Graduate Design Studio III

Number of Credits: 6

Meeting Time and Location: Monday / Wednesday: 1:25 PM – 4:10 PM

Type of Course: Studio

Prerequisites: Grad 2 Studio: Architecture + Design, equivalent or permission of instructor.

Instructor's Name: Assistant Professor Joseph Krupczynski

Office Location: Room 452, Fine Arts Center

Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM (appointment required)

Office Phone / email address: 413.577.2773 / josephk@art.umass.edu

Announcements: Architecture+Design Program announcements are sent via email listserves only. Graduate students (including non-degree students) must sign up for the arch-grad listserv at <https://list.umass.edu/mailman/listinfo/arch-grad>

Studio Guidelines: The Architecture+Design Program has adopted a Studio Guidelines policy which is posted on the program website: <http://www.umass.edu/architecture/activities/index.htm>
Please read this document and be familiar with all the guidelines.

B. Course Description

What is this course about?

“[Making] and [using] are not all that distinct for the [architect]. Both exercises require being alert and ready for unaccountable beauty, for the intricateness or simple elegance of the [architect's] imagination, for the world that the imagination evokes. Both require being mindful of the places where imagination sabotages itself, locks its own gates, pollutes its vision. [Making] and [using] mean being aware of the [architect's] notions of risk and safety, the serene achievement of, or sweaty fight for, meaning and response-ability”

–Toni Morrison (as quoted and altered by Lesley Naa Norle Lokko)

This studio promotes creative research and conceptually rigorous design methodologies that aim to illuminate, situate, and contest the complex circumstances within which a truly “sustainable” architecture can emerge — an architecture capable of escaping a narrow technological focus, while addressing the broader social and theoretical implications of sustainability.

The interplay between site, culture and program is a key focus of the studio. Through critical assessments of a broad range of specific site conditions students develop investigative strategies for responsive architectural interventions that bridge the gap between theory and practice.

This semester we will be working on a series of projects for Holyoke MA. After a thorough investigation of the social, cultural and physical conditions of central Holyoke, students will develop designs for a small multi-story building that explore the complex relationship between “site,” “culture” and “program” –not as fixed entities but as “constructs” capable of negotiating inhabitation and place in the creation of cultural significant architectural spaces.

C. Course Objectives

What can I expect to learn by studying this course?

Grad 3 Studio builds upon design skills developed in previous courses (at UMass or at other design programs) to conceptualize and holistically develop a critical, creative architectural design process which is conceptually consistent in its 1) formal organization, 2) tectonic expression, 3) cultural appropriateness, 4) environmental sustainability and 5) technical, legal, and financial feasibility. Emphasis is placed on architecture as a body of ideas and concepts that are explored and developed into a realizable architectural project that is resistant to the generalizations that technology, mass production and economics constantly strive to impose on our lives and the built-environment. The studio also provides students with an approach to analyzing, diagramming and representing three-dimensional designs, supporting further development of basic graphic, digital and general architectural communications skills.

D. Learning Activities / Requirements

What opportunities does the course provide for me to learn? What will I be expected to do?

The primary activity of the studio is a series of focused projects/assignments that allow students to develop an architectural project through the making of drawings, photographs and models. There will be both preliminary and final reviews of most assignments. All presented work must be well crafted and hung with care. Process development as well as final drawings are expected at all reviews.

Extensive class discussions, readings and written responses supplement the studio work. There will be one research paper/presentation required of each student. Working individually and collaboratively, students continue to develop iterative design processes that draw from and build upon individual experiences and previous design successes.

E. Assessment

How will my learning in this course be assessed?

1. GRADING

There are usually two grades for each assignment and/or project. Typically one grade covers your concepts and ideas, which include: conceptual development, preliminary investigation/research, design development and the integration of critique comments into the development of your project. The other grade covers your presentation –how well you have realized your ideas, which may include: depth of exploration, quality of craft, clarity of verbal presentations and completion of required work. Project grades will be averaged and provide the primary basis for your grade in the course.

The writing assignments are judged on a pass/fail system and will be used to adjust your final grade. All assignments that are late will be down graded by one grade designation. Assignments that are handed in over one week late will receive a failing grade. Students may make up past work only if it is submitted by the original due date.

Please review the Architecture + Design Area's Student Guidelines for detailed grading criteria.

2. ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

More than 2 unexcused absences may result in a failing grade. If you are absent for any reason you are responsible for all missed assignments and lecture information. Arrange to contact a classmate who will be able to pass on any necessary information.

You are required to work in the studio during class time. Please bring all your work (in progress or finished) to studio for each session. This is a studio class and group discussions and critiques play an important role in the development of your work. Your participation and progress is important and both these issues will be considered when assigning you a final grade.

3. ACADEMIC HONESTY

The integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research. Academic honesty is therefore required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: Cheating, Fabrication, Plagiarism and Facilitating Dishonesty. For more information on academic honesty, see:
http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm

F. Instructional Materials

What materials will I need for this course?

1. READINGS

All readings will be distributed in class, made available on-line or on reserve in the library.

2. EQUIPMENT / MATERIALS

Basic drawing, drafting and model making supplies and equipment are required for this studio. Laptops and other computer equipment for digital imaging are encouraged –but some assignments will require free hand drawing, photography and/or other mediums, so please have traditional drawings materials available at your studio desk. If a project has special requirements they will be discussed at the beginning of each project.

Students must use caution when using all materials. Read all safety and health literature supplied with materials. Aerosol sprays and solvents should only be used with adequate ventilation and not be used in the studios. Exercise caution when cutting materials with sharp blades.

G. Documentation and Collection of Work

At the end of the semester, each student is required to submit a Compact Disk with documentation of ALL WORK from the semester. Work for Studio classes may include, but not

limited to:

- photos of all models and 3-D work
- high resolution scans or digital copies of all process sketches and finished drawings.

Your documentation should cover the project's evolution as well as its final representation. Grades will not be issued until the CD is submitted.

In addition, selected projects will be collected and retained by the University, you will have limited access to your the projects once they are collected, so be sure they are thoroughly documented. These projects are a required part of the accreditation process for our program.

H. Course Schedule

At the start of each project/assignment an outline of due dates and requirements will be distributed.