

Architecture Studio: 2nd Year Fall

Fall 2009, CMU, Arch #48-200, M/W/F 1:30-4:20

Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-200

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Off. Hr: M/W 12:30-1:30pm & by appt. in MM307

(10/6/09)

PROJ. 4 – LIGHT MUSEUM ANNEX

Mindset / Objectives / Agendas:

In Project 4 we will move from the relatively quick design of a small exhibit pavilion to an extended exploration of a larger, more complex cultural program dedicated to observation and the arts in a tight urban setting. There will be four primary agendas in this project:

- 1) creating rich and memorable spatial experiences that focus on articulating a clear sequence of spaces that is reinforced by materiality, and a clearly conceptualized relationship of structure, enclosure, and space.
- 2) a focus on daylight (or its absence), how to amplify and control light, and the effects it can have on observation and experience, particularly in a museum;
- 3) a focus on the role of program and the process of determining the hierarchy, adjacency, and quality of each space as an integral part of the design & inspiration process;
- 4) a focus on the urban context, the implications of setting, and understanding the influences of architecture from and onto the surrounding city context.

It will be crucial to develop a rich and effective design process that will allow you to understand and synthesize solutions for a wide array of complex issues in a systematic, gradual, and progressive way, making and sticking to important decisions along the way. With such a complex program, you can't wait until the end to bring all the ideas together.

Project Brief:

An art collector is seeking to donate her collection of "Light Art" to a Pittsburgh-based art museum: either the Carnegie Museum of Art, or the Mattress Factory. She is prepared to commission an annex to one of the museums to be purpose-built to explore light in art and architecture. Your charge is to design a small but innovative exhibition and study center for a growing collection of modern and contemporary art that relates to "light" in a broad variety of ways. The building must enrich the visitor's and observer's understanding of light as central to how we see and understand all art, architecture, and the world around us.

The increasing use of digital and electronic technologies in the conception, design, realization, and experience of architecture today, combined with the mandate that architects marshal resources and energy-use in an increasingly responsible and sustainable way, makes the savvy use of light, and especially daylight in architecture, all the more urgent.

The annex will require three primary programmatic elements: 1) a series of linked exhibition spaces, each with specific light requirements, and some minimal support and staging areas; 2) a study and art storage center that will allow curators and a select public to study a greater array of art works more closely; 3) an entry space that facilitates access to these two spaces, but also conceptually and physically connects the "Light Museum" to the main museum, the street, and neighborhood. The new annex will have access to all of the existing museum's resources, support, and administrative spaces, but should serve as a relatively self-sustaining exhibit and work space, and does not need to be physically attached to the home institution.

Process:

This is a long project, almost eight weeks. We will work incrementally through a series of research, analysis, and design exercises that build on your research of existing museums and the Glass Pavilion at 40° North. It will begin with an investigation the use of light, ideas, and space in the work of several important modern artists. At the same time, we'll analyze of the contingencies of several urban sites, and the construction of a series of comparative massing models in order to shape the optimal adjacencies, opportunities for enhanced light conditions, open spaces, and exciting museum experiences. More detailed program requirements will be introduced later, and will require you to work methodically towards satisfying the primary agendas of the project while insuring memorable observations and spatial and light experiences. Guest lectures will reinforce the importance of light in its relation to energy consumption and experience. We will work to assemble a complete draft of the project and presentation layout two weeks before it is due, to allow time to refine parts of the design, especially some building details, as well as strengthen the presentation.

Requirements & Due Date:

All projects will be **DUE Tue. Dec. 1, 10:00pm**. The overall presentation should be carefully composed of an integrated set of "technical" and "experiential" drawings, as well as computer & physical models, likely at 1/4" scale. All presentations will be on two 44"x88" panels. A list of final presentation requirements will be distributed after the mid-review.

