

Spring 2005, CMU, Arch #48-205, M/W/F 1:30-4:20
Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-205/index.htm

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow

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

(12/3/04)

Studio Description

CONSTRUCTION: "The action of framing, devising, or forming by putting together parts systematically; see also erection, assembly, building, structure, conformation, disposition."

OVERVIEW:

This studio is concerned with more in-depth understanding and development of designs for small-scale buildings informed by the technical knowledge related to materials and the act of construction. The creative opportunities and design implications of using varied materials, structural systems, and assembly techniques are elaborated. The studio and the lectures focus on the application and integration of knowledge acquired in a parallel “Materials & Assembly” course (M&A, 48-215).

Building on the Fall “Composition” studio 48-200, this studio is concerned with the development and refinement of architectural design skills to include greater consideration of the aesthetic and experiential knowledge related to the meaning of materials (WHY?) and the technical knowledge related to the use of materials and the processes of construction (HOW?). We will explore how attention to materials, assembly systems and construction processes can and should influence the architectural design process, especially in determining the *artistic, conceptual, poetic, creative, spatial and experiential* aspects of architecture.

Objectives: To analyze and think critically about the role that materials, assembly methods and construction play in existing architectures, and applying this with intent as part of a larger, synthetic and creative design process in your own designs. To define strategies for problem solving, conceptual development and poetic expression at all levels of the design process, large and small, conceptual and real. To develop structured arguments about your design intentions and the means to communicate them effectively, especially with regard to materials and construction.

PROJECTS:

Each of the studios will approach the theme of design, materials and assembly differently, but all students are expected to explore a broad spectrum of design strategies at every opportunity. The studio instructors will present a series of lectures and guide a series of discussions based on required readings.

The semester will consist of two projects:

- Project "1": a simple, small kiosk to rent and fix bikes, with a focus on the human body encountering the materiality of architecture. The basic program will be common to all studios, but the site will be different for each. The problem will begin with research into a palette of architectural materials, and require large-scale models related to materials and assembly.

- Project "2": a larger construction in an urban setting focusing on the role of materials and assembly in reference to context, function, experience, space and meaning. To be announced at mid semester, and common to all studios.

