Architecture, Design and Materials Spring 05

Spike Wolff



Studio Description

The studio will focus on how materials support architectural ideas and the creation of architectural form. The studio will study the use and expression of materials and how one's sensory engagement with materials can shift the perception of space.

The studio will study typical meanings inherent to materials and explore possibilities to reinterpret these meanings. The studio will challenge our preconceptions of materials in order to create new relationships and transform perceptual qualities. The studio will explore the relationship of materials to the permanent and temporal conditions of site.

Projects will focus on how the manipulation of materiality can alter perception and the reading of space. Students will determine the basic quality or nature of their attitude towards materials in their projects. Students will identify the principle of their construction system and the relationship to materials. As projects develop they will express the relationship between space, form and material, specifically, the relationship of the geometry of form to material, relationship of structural system to material, relationship of building surfaces or skins to each other, and the hierarchy of structure to surface.

Research and discussion will include looking at the work of LeCorbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Frank Gehry, Coop Himmelblau, Gordon Matta-Clark, Herzog and DeMeuron and Sejima and Nishizawa, and readings by Alberto Perez-Gomez and Louise Pelletier, Donald Judd, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Tony Vidler.