

Architecture Studio: 1st Year Spring

Spring 2013, CMU, Arch #48-105, M/W/F 1:30-4:20

Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-105

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow

Email: gutschow@andrew.cmu.edu

Off. Hr: M/W/F 12:30-1:00pm & by appt. in MM302

(3/29/13)

Project 3: PITTSBURGH ROW HOUSE - 3 Moments

ASSIGNMENT 3d: Define 3 Moments - Due Mon. Apr. 1, 1:30

While in Chicago, your clients were fascinated by the wide open spaces and the “core” of the Farnsworth House, and also bought a painting that is 12ft tall that needs natural light, for either the living area or the studio space. They are eager to incorporate the core and the painting in their row house.

Prepare by reading the following philosophical essays about architecture, senses, and experience (avail. on studio website under author’s name):

- Pallasmaa, J. “Architecture of the Seven Senses” (1994)
- Bachelard, G. *Poetics of Space*, Ch.1 (1958)

Also, begin to look for, and study closely as many examples or precedents of “row houses” or “narrow houses” or “town houses” or urban “infill houses” as you can. Work to understand the variations within the “type”: what is typical? what is possible? Explore books, journals, as well as blogs such as archdaily.com, architizer.com, archinect.com, architonic.com, etc.

Then compose 3 significant architectural moments, events, or experiences in your row house related to the transitions from inside to outside, and how light and people get into the primary spaces in your house. Use some of your existing 20 diagrams, or invent new ones. Be sure to relate the 3 moments to each other: they could form a series or sequence of experiences through your house; they might offer side-by-side or alternative ways through your house; they also may be distinct and not-yet-connected points in a larger composition.

What is a “moment”? Every “moment” will be slightly different in terms of scale and size, location with your house, or the kind of experience, but one should perceive architectural limits for each moment so that they remain discrete events but also part of the overall composition. Your final row house design will include more than 3 moments, but you should begin by delimiting the three most important ones that will help to define the design and hierarchy of your row house. Aggregating the moments will eventually determine an *architectural promenade*, which Flora Samuel has defined as: “a series of distinct experiences that come together [to form] the observer’s pathway through the built space... the sequence of images that unfolds before the eyes of the observer as he or she gradually advances through the structure. It is the creation of a hierarchy among the architectural events, a set of instructions for reading the work, the internal circulatory system of architecture to create virtuosic imbrications of indoor and outdoor space, fluid spaces that reveal themselves as the visitor progresses.”

Create three separate physical models of your entire site at 1/8"=1'-0". Include at least a small part of the adjacent buildings in order to make clear the “infill” nature of your site. Then populate the three site models with three different iterations of your three “moments,” AND create a drawing alongside each model that combines the moments. Attempt to make the three site models reveal a process of “working through” an idea, rather than three random re-starts. Show a progression of ideas, demonstrate an iterative design process, set up rules of engagement and methods of variation. Be rigorous. Along with varying the ideas, spaces, materials, light, or composition slightly in each model, consider varying the modeling technique (cardboard planes vs. solid masses vs. 2x4 sticks). Instructors may require specific variations. All work must be to scale, it must fit on your site and relate to its context, and be for the clients described so far. Add active scale figures to each moment; give the figures an expression!

Find a balance between what your head says “ought to” go on the site, what you think you would know how to build, what the clients want, and something that is inspirational and perhaps possible. **SPECULATE!!!**

