

Architecture Studio: 2nd Year, F'11

Fall 2011, 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 MM302

(10/24/11)

Projects 3&4: PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINDSET:

In this project we move from the intensive project to build and draw a small personal shelter in a natural setting, to designing a larger, cultural program in an urban setting. One of the primary goals of the project, and the 48-200 studio, is to develop a richer, and more independent design process that draws inspiration and rigor from multiple sources. In distinct stages of the design process: 1) you will speculate on a meaningful vision or concept of a what a library can be; 2) you will research and analyze an existing library to help expand your understanding of real architecture; 3) you will measure and map the site and context forces within which you will set the building; 4) you will organize and spatialize a large and detailed program, and determine the hierarchy, adjacency, and quality of each space; 5) you will synthesize these many layers of inspiration into a carefully articulated and memorable sequence of architectural spaces and experiences; 6) your composition will be reinforced and integrated through a distinct materiality and a clearly conceptualized and systematic relationship of structure, enclosure, and space; and finally 7) you will work to communicate your ideas clearly and incisively to yourself, your instructors and peers, and outside reviewers.

PROJECT:

In 2009 the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh (CLP) voted to close four of its original branch libraries, including the Lawrenceville Branch, open since 1898 on Fitch St. An infusion of cash saved them, temporarily. Citizens will vote on Nov. 8, 2011, on whether to increase taxes to support the libraries. In the mean time the CLP is coming up with alternative libraries, such as the "Storefront Library" in the Strip District. All over the world, new models for the library are being developed, such as the "Idea Stores" in London.

Your charge is to design a new, small public library for the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh that will reinvigorate the branch, and the city around it. An important part of your project will be to create a meaningful and appropriate vision to answer "What is a library in Lawrenceville?," both programmatically, and architecturally. It should promote library use more actively within the Lawrenceville neighborhood, and attract diverse audiences from the neighborhood, as well as the Strip District, Bloomfield, Polish Hill, Herr's Island, etc.

SITE:

The site will be on Butler Ave, in the heart of the vibrant Lower Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh. The project will offer opportunities to improve and add a prominent landmark to the busy Butler Street corridor, to fill in a vacant lot.

REQUIREMENTS & DUE DATES

This is a long project, 6-7 weeks. All work is **DUE Thu. Dec. 8, 10:00pm**. The overall presentation should be carefully composed of an integrated set of "technical" & "experiential" drawings, as well as computer & physical models, some at 1/4" scale. All presentations will be on 44"x88" panels. A list of presentation requirements will be distributed after mid-review.

PROJECT 4a (due Wed. Oct. 26, 1:30)

Consider carefully, discuss, read, visit, and then write 2pp. on the following questions: What is a library? What is a library in the 21st century? What functions and feeling does a public branch library in Lawrenceville need to embody? What place does a public library have in our daily lives? In the city? Are they relevant? How have they changed? What should they promote? How can they move beyond the generic library functions? Work to write out spatial, experiential, and structural ideas that can be the basis for a design proposal.

