

Architecture, Design & Materials Studio

Studio Damiani

CMU, Arch #48-205

Spring 2005, M/W/F 1:30-4:20 Office Hours: By appt.

Howard Roark: A building has integrity just like a man.
And just as seldom.

Ayn Rand, The Fountainhead

Studio Statement

Architecture finds its expression as it mediates between the ideal and the real. The materials that constitute a building are as vital to the final form as is the client, design concept(s), site and region.

The idea of material tectonics is nothing new to architecture; it has been the subject of discussion since Vitruvius. The debate continued with such architects as Vignola, Alberti, Viollet-le-Duc, Semper, Wagner, Loos, Wright, Kahn, Lewerentz, Scarpa and many others throughout time.

The digital revolution has quickened the pace of technological invention bringing with it new methods to time-tested materials as well as new materials. This new material gestalt potentially broadens the tectonic discourse beyond the ordinary traditions.

Today, the architecture of a select few question orthogonality with exotic materials and unique fabrication methods while others question the arcane construction methods of our time in the search for new intentions for the materials. This studio will look at materials, technology, fabrication, site, region and the client as the source of its form.

Premise

This studio will focus on how building materials and construction methods can aid in the conceptual, experiential and poetic aspects of architecture. No previous experience in construction is required, however, students must be willing to:

- Have the curiosity of a child when researching and evaluating building materials
- Have the willingness and dedication to make beautiful space(s) with the aid of exceptionally crafted drawings and models
- Have the ability to construct mock-ups of building components using the shop and other techniques
- Have the enthusiasm to research the inherent and, at times, un-inherent qualities of materials



FROM: MODERN TIMES

Studio Structure

Students will be asked to research specific building materials and present their properties, qualities, conventional use, and possible advantages and limitations. Students will be encouraged to look outside the standard techniques and uses of these materials to find new forms of expression for these materials.

.....Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong,
While you see it your way,
There's a chance that we may fall apart before too long.
We can work it out...

The Beatles, "Yesterday"...And Today

Required Purchase:

Purchase before 01.17.05

Mechanization Takes Command,
A Contribution to Anonymous History,
by Siegfried Giedion



COLUMN DETAIL BY MVRDV