

## STUDIO STATEMENT

### *MATERialty of archiTECTURE*

*“Learn about music and your instrument, then forget it and play how you like ” - I think it was Charlie Parker who said that. I believe you have to do the same in architecture.*

Renzo Piano

By challenging and exploring the ‘materializing’ of architecture, the studio will explore how form in unison with materials can create a meaningful built environment. We will explore how a simple palette of materials, structural systems, technical construction processes, and poetic assembly methods can and do influence form making. Through understanding, celebrating and, perhaps, even exploiting materials there is the potential to create an emotive, poetic architecture.

This studio will explore the dialogue between ideas and materials as the definers of space. The structure of materials, the expressive nature of materials and the assemblage of materials are the subject of the studio.

Materials are endowed with meaning; they can evoke emotions and trigger memories creating deeper levels of understanding. The recent evolution of mutant materials and manufacturing processes has imbued our profession with many new and exciting possibilities. The materiality of architecture today perhaps more than ever before permits the exploration of such issues as time, transformation, lightness/heaviness, permanence/impermanence and adaptable/stationary. The innate sensory qualities of materials in combination with their technical potentials permit an architecture that explores many facets of human culture.

The studio will explore the poetic and emotive nature of simple building materials as form, place, and space makers. While demanding an exploration of the relationship between the development of ideas and the assembly of materials, the small scale of the program will permit students to explore the tectonic and material qualities of architecture through the detail and material choices. As the project progresses, students will review, refine and develop the materials and their assemblies in response to their architectural idea.

The first project will be the design of a bike shelter on the Rails to Trails on Washington’s Landing, Pittsburgh. The exploration of site and its cultural history will be the impetus for the gathering, but basic unpretentious building materials from a local building supply store will be the fabric for the experience.

