

"I prefer drawing to talking. Drawing is faster, and leaves less room for lies."  
- Le Corbusier

project 1 statement:

As noted in the syllabus and overall course project statement, the first project will be a **temporary library** to be located on an urban site in the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh. As part of our studio requirements, all students will participate in an individual competition between students within our studio and students in the Damiani studio for this first project. This competition, sponsored by the *National Concrete Masonry Association*, is intended to provide a greater appreciation of the capabilities of utilizing **concrete masonry units** (CMU's) as a primary building material. Moreover, it is intended to inspire students to imagine new and explore innovative possibilities in utilizing concrete masonry.

In addition to **concrete masonry** being the primary building material, one additional opaque exterior material may be incorporated (if desired) along with translucent or transparent materials to permit light into the space. A critical undertaking of this project will be in *composing* multiple materials and textures within a small scale project and demonstrating how the interface or edge condition between differing materials can strengthen the architectural *idea* and enhance the overall spatial experience.

Self motivation and self evaluation is critical. Group discussions will be the general method of daily instruction requiring ongoing student interaction, involvement, debate, discussion, etc. Preparation is the key to productive feedback.

process goals:

**understand**

the problem as stated and as understood or redefined  
the context of the problem  
the primary material given – concrete masonry

**test / challenge**

multiple design ideas through a combination of creation and discovery  
multiple scale levels simultaneously  
material conventions: inherent, practical and *reinterpreted*  
material experiences: visual, tactile, weight, opacity, translucency  
functional conventions: library, urban context  
scale and complexity: small and restrained

**respect**

construction informing the conceptual  
size, weight and scale of materials  
joints and assemblies, structure and skin, surface and form

