

## Architecture, Design & Materials Studio

Spring 2007, CMU, Arch #48-205, M/W/F 1:30-4:20  
Class Website: [www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-205](http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-205)

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Off. Hr: M/W 12:30-1:30pm & by appt. in MM307

(2/23/07)

## PHASE II: NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY & GYM

### MINDSET:

This project should continue your research and creative process from Phase I, the “Temporary Library.” We shall deepen our investigations on the role that diverse materials and innovative assembly methods can play in creating a small piece of architecture, with a more complex program. We will maintain the focus on the scale of the human body encountering the physical presence of building, and continually explore how we can elevate ordinary construction to poetic expression, how real materials, structure, enclosure, joinery, building and craft techniques can lead to the creation of significant architectural experiences. As a capstone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year studio, we will extend the length of this project in order to allow for a more thoroughly detailed exploration of your design, both in how the materials are used, and the power of the final presentation.

### PROJECT:

Based on the success of your “Temporary Library” on the South Side, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) has commissioned you to design a combination neighborhood library and gym, on a nearby site. Your design should integrate 1) a small, fully-functioning, modern library that inspires the discovery of knowledge for all residents of the South Side, with 2) a covered ½ basketball court that will supplement the neighboring public park. The project is meant to build on, and update, the CLP’s long tradition of combining important social and cultural functions to serve and appeal to a broad section of the community (including a library, gym and theater in the first CLP). An important part of your charge is to establish how and why two disparate functions can strengthen and reinforce each other through a careful and thoughtful use of materials, assembly and architecture. How body and mind can both be exercised to achieve a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

### PROGRAM:

#### Primary Functions:

Library (2500 sq.ft max):  
Circulation Desk  
Computer Terminals  
Stacks/Special Collections  
Reading Areas  
1/2 -Court Gym:  
Court to be 47'x50'  
Easy access to park

#### Support Spaces:

Men’s toilets (1 handicap accessible stall, 1 urinal)  
Women’s toilets (1 reg. & 1 handicap accessible)  
Staff space (a common workspace)  
Small storage space for gym equipment.  
Circulation space, including handicap accessibility to all spaces, 2 means of egress from all floors, and “controlled” entry and exit points.  
Parking will occur on the street.

### SITE

The site is parcel #15 on the corner of Carson & 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The building must fit entirely on the site. Students should establish a firm position regarding the building and its relationship to the sidewalk, the park, and the larger urban context. How is the context for this site different than the one a block away for the temporary library? How does your building engage the particular context? Why?



## PROCESS / REQUIREMENTS

In order to promote a synthetic and integrated design process that constantly works at multiple scales (from the site plan to the construction detail), as well as in multiple modes of representation (model, plan, section, perspective), and strives to integrate conceptual ideas with physical construction, students will be asked to come to an early resolution about their basic library-gym concept, building parti, and detailed materials selection. Throughout the design process, the building must be designed alongside its presentation to the public!

## DESIGN SUMMARY:

All students must prepare and submit a "Design Summary" of their designs as part of the first mid-review on **Mar. 26 & 28**. The 2pp. "Design Summary" should be submitted as a printout and a pdf to coordinator & instructor. It should indicate the design of the building, and begin to indicate the most clear and effective means of presenting the idea and details. It must include at least: a) a site plan; b) a 3D massing drawing; c) plan and sections; d) a 3D construction drawing; and e) a 100 word statement about the central concept for the library, especially the use and meaning of the materials and assembly.

## CARTOON:

The rest of the semester will be spent flushing out, intensifying, detailing and communicating designs with ever greater clarity, depth and creativity. Substantial deviations from the first "Design Summary" will impact the depth to which you can carry out your design intentions. Since this project represents the culmination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year studio experience, you will be expected to consider more independently than before what drawings and models will best represent your idea at all phases of the project. In discussions with your instructor and the coordinator, you should work to determine your own "Final Requirements." Work to create a memorable presentation with respect to effort, composition, knowledge about M&A, creativity, and inspiration of your work. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> mid-review, on **Mon. Apr. 9**, every student will be required to submit a detailed "Cartoon" of their final presentation. It must contain miniaturized versions of the actual drawings (NOT just a rectangle indicating drawing size), showing relationship between drawings, and indicate what the particular contribution is of each drawing.

In parallel with this project, all students enrolled in Prof. Steve Lee's "M&A" class will be required to consult Steve in order to strengthen their understanding of structure and the construction process of their particular design, and to communicate these through large-scale details, mock-ups, and assembly drawings. In addition, all students will be expected to submit a thorough "Project Documentation" for use on the class website and School Archives.

Louis Kahn:

"A man with a book goes to the light. A library begins that way"

"Architecture is the threshold where silence and light meet, Silence with its desire to Be, and light the giver of all presences."

"A great building must, in my opinion, begin with the unmeasurable and go through the measurable in the process of design, but in the end be unmeasurable."

