

PERCEPTUAL SHIFT
Spike Wolff Studio Spring 07
Carnegie Mellon University 48-205

Research and Analysis Project

Naeun Choi	Masonry	Dominus Winery, Herzog and deMeuron
Nelly Dacic	Concrete	Kimball Museum, Louis Kahn
Chris Gallot	Metal	Rookery, Frank Lloyd Wright
John Hsu	Wood	Finnish Pavilion, Alvar Aalto
Patrick Kim	Masonry	Thermal Baths, Peter Zumthor
Raedun Knutsen	Concrete	Dulles Airport, Eero Saarinen
Jaeyoung Park	Concrete	Leeum Museum, Rem Koolhaas
Patricia Rivera	Metal	Guggenheim Bilbao, Frank Gehry
Jon Spring	Metal	Arizona Stadium, Peter Eisenmen /HOK Sport
Stephen Sun	Masonry	Hollyhock House, Frank Lloyd Wright
Daniel Zhang	Wood	PS I, SHoP

The essence of the design process in studio is to begin with an architectural idea, inventing strategies to develop the idea and determining materials to give it physical form, resulting in a space which can be experienced. In this analysis project, the process is essentially reversed, so that beginning with the students' understanding of the architectural space, they will undertake research and analysis to develop hypotheses regarding the formal strategies and materiality of formal elements used by the architect in the development of the space. Through the exploration of these ideas and their manifestation in tangible physical materials, the analysis project will create connections between the ideas of the architect, the meaning of architectural elements, the behavior of materials and ones' perceptual experience of space.

Buildings for the analysis project have been individually self-selected by the students. Based upon the students' intellectual reading, actual memories of, or anticipated experience of their sensory engagement of the space, students are asked to research and analyze the building to determine what architectural terms the architect worked with in the development of the project. Investigation may also include research and study of other work, both projects and writings, by the architect.

Through relating their research to the perceptual experience of the architecture, students will develop theories regarding the primary architectural ideas – spatial, conceptual, experiential, sensual, formal, contextual, tectonic, symbolic, intellectual, structural, textual – at work in the architecture. Through their creative investigations into the architecture, students will determine how the architect used specific strategies, materials and relationships between materials, to create the space they experienced.

Documentation of the analysis project will reflect both the exploration process and the clear communication of these theories, being expressive of the ideas, strategies, material behavior and experience of the architecture.