

# Architecture Studio: 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Spring, S'08

Spring 2008, 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

(2/22/08)

## Proj.4 - SOUTHSIDE RESEARCH CENTER

### MINDSET:

*Reuse:* Much as in Proj.1, this project demands that you reconceive an old industrial site: in this case a former manufacturing shed. Your aim should be: 1) to create an architecture that reinhabits, reuses, renews, and re-visions, rather than tears down and starts anew; 2) to rethink and engage critically with the past & present, so that you can envision and inspire the future;

- *Context:* Work with the site, not in spite of it; draw out the opportunities of the old building and specific site in order to intensify our understanding of what the existing building is, and how to point it to a better future.
- *New Paradigm:* The building is a remnant of the "manufacturing age," an age that has slowly given way to an "information age." The world today is governed by knowledge and information, which are created through research. You should use your program as a vehicle for investigating what research is, and will be, for projecting a new architectural vision of what that research will bring to our lives; and for proposing the next life of this building.
- *Materiality & Making:* Unlike information, human beings and architecture remains wedded to the material world. Architects are in the business of materializing ideas, not just giving form to them, and as a result should develop a passion for "making." Use this project to deepen your explorations on how diverse materials and innovative assembly methods can create a small piece of experientially rich architecture.
- *Communication:* This project is the capstone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year studio; use this opportunity to deliver a more detailed exploration of architecture than before, both in terms of how materials are assembled to create experiences, and how to communicate these ideas most powerfully in the final presentation.

### PROJECT:

- Your charge is to insert a small "research center / library" into the old J&L manufacturing shed on Pittsburgh's Southside.
- The new structure can be located anywhere inside the old shed, and any part of the old shed (such as pieces of the facades, structure, or roof) can be removed to reveal or intensify the use and experience of the new research center, as long as it meets the reuse/recycle "mindset" criteria above.
- The maximum floor area of the new research center should be 3000sf.

### PROGRAM:

Each studio will focus on a different kind of research and subject matter, but the underlying program spaces will be the same for all research centers:

- storage space(s) for research materials such as books, data, artifacts, or whatever other information and substances are being researched;
- research space(s) for engaging with the research materials, such as a laboratory, a reading room, or processing center;
- public interface space(s) that mediates between the operations of the research center and the various contexts in which it operates: the rest of the industrial shed, the streets surrounding the site, the Southside, etc.
- support spaces, including: a) men's & womens' toilets (1 handicap accessible stall + 1 regular stall); b) staff office space; c) circulation space, including handicap accessibility to all spaces, and 2 means of egress from all floors; e) mechanical equipment spaces.

Use your studio's particular research program, in combination with your own specific architectural vision, to craft a more specific program brief that assures pieces come together to create a whole that is more than the sum of its parts.



Piranesi



Herzog & De Meuron / Schaulager



Air & Space Museum



Boullee, Library



Materiality: Site Photos

**SITE: Pittsburgh's Southside Sites for Proj.1 & Proj.2**



**SITE - Jane St. btwn 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> - Former J&L Steel Manufacturing Shed, presently used for storage**

