

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN AND MATERIALS
CMU Spike Wolff Studio Spring 08

Project O: Materials Exploration
Design Study - Research Project

window

- n : a framework of wood or metal that contains a glass windowpane and is built into a wall or roof to admit light or air
- : a transparent panel inserted in an otherwise opaque material

At Combray, as every afternoon ended, long before the time when I should have to go up to bed, and to lie there, unsleeping, far from my mother and grandmother, my bedroom became the fixed point on which my melancholy and anxious thoughts were centred. Someone had indeed had the happy idea of giving me, to distract me on evenings when I seemed abnormally wretched, a magic lantern, which used to be set on top of my lamp while we waited for dinner-time to come; and, after the fashion of the master-builders and glass-painters of gothic days, it substituted for the opaqueness of my walls an impalpable iridescence, supernatural phenomena of many colours, in which legends were depicted as on a shifting and transitory window.

- Marcel Proust, Swann's Way, translated by G.K. Scott Montcrieff, c.1924.

Design a 'Window'.

The window should act as a perceptual threshold between two spaces.

Window projects should focus on how the object (window) reconditions space.

The window may explore one or more of the basic perceptual typologies of materials – opacity, translucency, transparency, reflectivity. Materials should be considered both in terms of characteristics typically associated and atypically possible with them.

The window's materials should mediate the existing space, considering the differences between the two spaces on either side of the window.

The design should consider how the window might engage temporal shifting and transitory conditions, such as light, air, sound, movement and images that may be transmitted through the window.

The project should be created full scale using the physicality and behavioral characteristics of actual materials; projects will be set up to be experienced by the entire studio for review. The final project should include the window, as well as a drawing or photo-montage expressive of the behavior of materials and how they effect the experience and perception of space; this document should focus on the space created by the window rather than the window as an object.

Project due in studio Friday 21 March.