

Course Overview for External Evaluators

“Architecture Design Studio: Composition” (48-200)

Coordinator: F02, F04, F05, F06, F07, F09

Taught as Instructor: F99, F00, F01

2nd Year, Architectural Design Studio

18 units, required course for all majors

Course Website: <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-200/>

The 2nd Year Fall Studio is an introduction to architectural design stressing the use of research, analysis, and precedent as a means of developing a rich design *process* that creates evocative spatial *experiences* through architecture. Building on the explorations of form and space in the 1st year, the 2nd year students investigate in greater depth the role that program, context, and the physical “elements of architecture” play in creating meaningful architecture. This studio grapples with understanding the design principles underlying the buildings of the past and present, from the broadly theoretical and conceptual, to the real implications of tectonics and sustainability, in order to apply these ideas with intent and significance. The studio programs focus on developing a student’s ability to create meaningful, fitting, and poetic architectural ideas, building details, and techniques of communication while dealing with programs that have meaning to the world around us.

The semester includes four projects: Project 1: a short, group “research” project exploring the “elements of architecture” using the shop to create a large-scale “installation”; Project 2: a small, personal space in a natural setting; Project 3: an in-depth, all-semester “building analysis” project, simultaneously with design projects; Project 4: a “Light Museum” annex to the Carnegie Museum of Art with a detailed program.

I have coordinated both semesters of the required 2nd year studios for six years. Each year I help hire and coordinate 4-5 adjunct instructors who are practicing architects from the area. Over the years I have shifted the pedagogy of the studio from one where each instructor created their own projects and we all lectured on favorite topics, to one where I had write the projects in consultation with the instructors, and I present the studio lectures as a series of planned and connected themes. This has had the effect of creating much more cohesion to the content and expectations within the entire 2nd year studio sequence.

I am including in this packet several of the project statements that I have generated over the years, along with examples of student work, all of which is achieved under my close supervision as a “floating critic” for each of the separate studios. The student work (always with a black square in the upper left) is presented in its original format, unedited by me, as the students submit it to the department using a standard “template” or “framework,” with black can range from square at the top left. These templates help the students create portfolios, give a shared identity to the 2nd year studio, and facilitate the departments efforts to promote the school and the students. I initiated these templates in the 2nd year in 2003, and the program has now been adopted by all studios at CMU.

For other materials, including examples of student work, and class handouts, please refer both the course website listed above, as well as my professional website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gutschow/

