

Civic Joints: Graduate Design-Build Studio

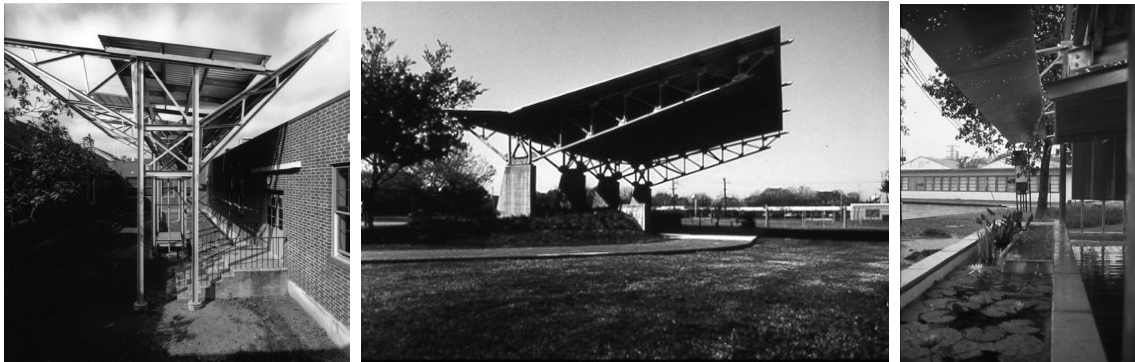
ARCH 5670 Advanced Design Studio / Graduate Design-Build Studio
Fall 2010, MWF 2:00pm-5:50pm, Architecture Building Rm. 412

[SYLLABUS]

Prerequisite: ARCH 5594 or Equivalent
Credit Hours: 6
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The University of Texas at Arlington School of Architecture
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Patrick Peters, UH DB Professor; Outdoor Classrooms: 1. Mechanical Shade Tree, Edgar Allen Poe Elementary School; 2. Outdoor Science Classroom, Red Elementary School; 3. Outdoor Science Classroom, UH Charter School of Technology; Houston, Texas 1996, 1997, 1998

Mankind's primordial purpose for building is shelter. Shelter provides mankind with cover or protection. However, shelter does not merely provide cover or protection from the elements, other men, other dangers, etcetera; shelter also provides mankind with a refuge; a haven. A refuge is a source of help, relief, or comfort. A haven is a harbor, an anchorage, a sanctuary; *a sacred place; a meaningful place.*

"The difficulty of an Architect's task is ... to be able to work with the material of the measurable and the sayable in order to transcend them."

Kenneth Frampton, Cubit Symposium, Texas A&M University, 1990

While referring to both Wittgenstein's concept of the sayable and the unsayable and to Kahn's idea of the measurable and the immeasurable, Professor Frampton suggests that the task of the Architect must synthesize the integration of *Theory* and *Practice* in order to enter the realm of the *Poetic*.

Civic Joints: The Performative Tectonics of Place-Making

As an investigative vehicle for yielding innovative architectural research, a design-build approach to making architecture will be employed in this course to uncover relationships between a *theory* of civic joints and the *practice* of performative tectonics in place-making.

Giovanni Battista Vico's maxim, *verum ipsum factum*, truth through making, may have been best realized in the work of the Italian architect Carlo Scarpa. Scarpa's unique tectonic details and innovative use of materials were realized through a combination of manual drawing, daily visits to his projects during construction, and creative collaborations between the architect and the craftspeople executing the built work.

This type of relationship between the processes of design *thinking* and design *making*, recalls the original meaning of the term architect, from *architekton*, as master builder, and a definition of architecture as the poetics of construction.

As a vehicle for architectural research, incorporating innovative, sustainable and tectonic design strategies, this advanced design studio course will commence with the design and construction of a didactic outdoor classroom / community meeting space for a community daycare center located at Gateway Park Apartments, a 204-unit affordable housing community in Arlington.

Uniquely positioned, to make significant contributions in launching this design-build effort, with expertise in integrating architecture, engineering, sustainability, digital technology, and construction, The Beck Group has agreed to sponsor and participate in this studio. A number of required classes will take place off-campus at The Beck Group offices in Dallas.

Course Methodology

A series of readings, lectures/presentations, desk-crits, and pin-ups, will develop an architectural discourse on which the work will be based; a major design-build project that combines the investigations of theoretical texts, scientific principles, and canonical design works. The discourse will include the philosophical, technological, and other cultural contexts that have affected the design strategies of meaningful *places* through considerations of the natural and the human-made world.

This course will examine both theoretical and technological underpinnings employed to inform the practice of architecture. The course will proceed with an intense design process, to include the making of drawings and models; it will yield a set of construction documents required for a building permit. Students will work individually and eventually as a team[s]. All students will produce a design project individually. Full-scale prefabrication of significant components of one final synthesized design will be completed and exhibited on the UTA campus and/or elsewhere. Following exhibitions through the spring, the final design will be transported and erected on the project site and necessary earthworks will be constructed as a component of another course in the summer.

Course Materials

Following the tripartite structure of the course, emphasizing theory, technology, and poetics, the following texts will be employed and may be available at the University Bookstore:

Frampton, Kenneth [Studies in Tectonic Culture](#) Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1995.

Heschong, Lisa [Thermal Delight in Architecture](#) Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1979.

Sennett, Richard [The Craftsman](#) New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Lechner, Norbert [Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Sustainable Design Methods for Architects 3rd Ed.](#) Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2009.

Kwok, Alison G. & Grondzik, Walter T. [The Green Studio Handbook: Environmental Strategies for Schematic Design](#) New York, New York: Architectural Press, 2007.

Students will be required to maintain a sketchbook and an 8 ½" x 11" binder dedicated to their work in the course. Course notes, handouts, assignments, and quizzes should be compiled in the binder.

Additional required readings from the course bibliography will be issued via electronic mail and are required to be printed by each student and maintained in their course binder.

Grades

Final grades for the course will be based on the following assessment of a student's work:

A Excellent [Scores 90-100] Exceptional and/or unusually outstanding work. Exceptional performance exceeding requirements of the assignment; initiative proving independent resourcefulness; strong positive attitude towards the work; growing level of improvement.

B Good [Scores 80-89] Very strong work. Adequate performance above the norm, accurate and complete beyond requirement of the assignment; good initiative; growing level of improvement.

C Fair [Scores 70-79] Average work. Conservative performance satisfying all requirements of the assignments with a neutral or ordinary level of initiative, attitude, and improvement.

D Passing, Below Average [Scores 60-69] Weak work. Inadequate performance not satisfying the

requirements of the assignment with an indifferent and unnoticeable level of initiative, attitude, and improvement.

F Failure [Scores 0-59] Unacceptable or incomplete work. Ineffective performance not satisfying the requirements of the assignments; Very low level of initiative attitude, and improvement.

<i>Case-Study Analysis</i>	15% of final grade
<i>Discussions + Presentations on Theory</i>	15% of final grade
<i>Individual Design Proposal</i>	35% of final grade
<i>Design-Build Teamwork</i>	35% of final grade

Grades will be issued as the course progresses so that at any point in the semester it should be possible for each student to calculate his/her status in the course. It is strongly recommended that students keep apprised of their status in the course and calculate their standing and final grade potential regularly, but especially before the last day to drop this course: Friday, 5 November 2010.

Performance evaluations will be issued at approximately mid-term, before the last day to drop this course. If at any time during the semester, a student would like to discuss his/her progress in the course, he/she is welcome to make an appointment with the professor during posted office hours. Special provisions will not be made for extra credit or additional time to complete work at the end of the course.

Attendance

Attendance is required for the full class time. This course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:00pm to 5:50pm. Excused absences from class meetings for medical reasons or religious observance must be verified with the course professor. Acceptable 'excused' absences approved by the course professor, for reasons such as medical, etc, will be limited to two per student. Excessive absences will be considered grounds for failure, withdrawal, or a reduction of a student's final grade.

Communication Policy

The official, primary mode of communication for this course is via electronic mail, not faculty mailboxes or faculty telephone lines, etcetera. Students are required to check and manage their e-mail accounts regularly.

Laptop Policy

The School of Architecture requires each student in the Master of Architecture graduate program to have a personal laptop computer configured to the School's specifications. For more information, please see <http://www.uta.edu/architecture/admissions/laptop.htm>.

Food & Personal Electronic Devices

No food is permitted in the classroom. Unless specifically permitted by the course professor, personal electronic devices such as laptop computers, mobile phones, cameras, and recorders must be powered off and stowed while in the classroom.

Master Craftsmanship

As noted in Richard Sennett's book, [The Craftsman](#), the development of any craft to the level of mastery, is a labor/time intensive pursuit; this point cannot be understated regarding the time and commitment required to successfully complete a graduate level course required for a professional degree.

Outside Employment

The School of Architecture advises students in the Path A Master of Architecture program to discontinue outside employment due to the rigor of the program (not unlike any other professional school in law or medicine). For more information, please see <http://www.uta.edu/architecture>.

Indemnification Agreement

This course will involve full-scale construction of student work and travel off-campus. As in all architectural work, safety will be the paramount concern. Students in this course will be required to attend an instructional session[s] on construction/shop safety as well as sign hold harmless/indemnification agreements with both UTA and the project site owner/management.

Student Work

It is understood that the course professor and the School of Architecture, in compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and all other applicable laws or University policies, may make use of originals or reproductions of student work produced for this course as required for educational purposes. It is understood that registration for and continued enrollment in this course where such use of student work is announced constitutes permission authorized by the student.

Classroom Culture

The faculty and students are required to treat one another with dignity and respect in the classroom, on project reviews, and in all course related communications.

Student Support Services

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help students connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

For assistance with your library needs in this course, please consult the appropriate subject librarian.

University Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The University of Texas at Arlington policy on academic dishonesty holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the university policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." [Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22].

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort; discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

University Policy on Disability-Related Accommodations

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA], pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Disclaimer

The course professor reserves the right to issue course amendments via updated syllabi from time to time.