

Course Number: ARC 6356
Section Number: 4883
Term: Fall 2017
Course Title: VIA Advanced Graduate Architectural Design 3
Credits: 6
Meeting times: Monday 10:10-1:15/ Wednesday 10:15-1:15/ Thursday 10:15-1:15
occasionally Friday 10:15-1:15
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Coordination: Alfonso Perez-Mendez
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Syllabus

Course description

Advanced Graduate Design Studio 3 explores the complex relationship between cultural, historical and physical context, building physics and building tectonics.

Each project requires a thoughtful documentation and analysis of the city and the transformation of specific sites through proposals for built interventions. Vicenza provides the settings for two buildings projects. The two projects will focus on the relationship of the historic town and its outskirts, working on the mending strategies and the appreciation of the traditional connecting elements such as rivers, city walls perimeter and the residual green areas.

Programmatically, the two interventions offer the opportunity to work at building and urban scale. The design purpose of the interventions is to consider act of construction and its importance in the making of place within a complex historical context: a dialogue between historic artifacts, contemporary culture, making space for human occupation – all within the consideration of the finite resources of the planet.

The concept of sustainability will be a driving force behind the two projects, encompassing the wellbeing of users, the choice of building materials and construction techniques, and energy production and use. Investigations of ancient, traditional, currently available, and potential future structural methods and construction materials, their relation to regional building traditions, spatial character, culture and climate will be explored using analog and digital methods.

Specific Studio methods

Students will develop a sequence of structural, material, environmental and contextual investigations: relation to historic conditions, interior and exterior space, light, shading and energy; project inhabitation and experience.

Visits are organized during the first part of the course to achieve an up-graded knowledge about the local modern building components production technologies.

Project 1: Analysis, Verification, Proposal at the Urban Scale

The studio will begin with a major urban analysis. The role of analysis in this course is to serve as an anticipatory exercise in preparation for the field work. This documentation is achieved through the study of maps, texts, and aerial and ground photography. This phase will serve as the baseline for speculative proposals. During the site visit initial assumptions will be tested against field conditions. Miscalculations will be revisited and unanticipated liabilities and opportunities will be weighed and incorporated into a mixed-use, new construction proposal at the urban scale.

Project 2: Proposal at the Building Scale

The second half of the semester will be devoted to a more tightly focused investigation of a specific building site. Each student will prepare a proposal for an intervention on this site that incorporates the key course objectives - historic context, building assemblage, urban response, environmental response and human occupation - with core elements of their MRP proposal.

The project will focus on the prefabrication technique as methodology to establish a balance between traditional craft and technological optimization, and on the local building materials knowledge as consciousness to the local environment and to the local traditional production technologies.

The course will provide periodic workshops on digital analysis tools which may be used to test, document and provide proof for key design objectives in both projects.

Travel-Design Journal

Travel is an important reflective and generative component of the VIA design studio. As a supplement to the studio design work, all students will develop and keep a journal that records things encountered in travel. The journal may take any form or any combination of media but its purpose is both generative and reflective-directed by studio and MRP interests and following the lead of le Corbusier's "Journey to the East", or the "Poème de L'angle Droit"(The Poem of Right Angle).

Weekly Thesis Discussions

During the course of the semester, each student is expected make a brief presentation of their work sharing theses, research methods grounded in architectural making, travel journals and relationship between the Italy studio work and the MRP.

Once a week we will devote an hour of studio time to a discussion of the Masters Research Projects. Sources and Influences

The materials brought to this course by both the faculty and the students will have a significant impact on the direction the course will take. There is an abundant set of possible sources for architectural

readings, historical readings, web sites, cinema and art that can be brought to discussions and design studies.

This class has no required texts, but it is expected that you will develop a reading list supporting your design research. In regards to travel, there are numerous books in the VIA library that can give an excellent background for the studio and personal travel.

Here are but a few on Barcelona:

Journey to the East and the Poème de L'angle Droit (The Poem of Right Angle). Le Corbusier
Transforming Barcelona, edited by Tim Marshall, Routledge Barcelona, The Urban Evolution of a Compact City, Joan Busquets, Harvard University, Graduate books in reserve School of Design Urban Change and the European left, Tales from the New Barcelona, Donald McNeill, Routledge Building Barcelona, A Second Renaixenca, Peter Rowe, Actar Barcelona, by Robert Hughes, Knopf.

For Paris: Seven Ages of Paris, Alistair Horne For Berlin: Berlin, David Clay Large For London: London, The Biography, Peter Ackroyd For Rome: Rome from the Ground up, James McGregor For Florence: Florence a Portrait, Michael Levey.

Room Use

Since many students are working in the same room it is essential that you work quietly and unobtrusively, that you respect your fellow student's work, and that you clean up after you are finished. Please note that spray painting or using methods that expose other students and faculty to VOC's anywhere on the VIA grounds is prohibited. Also note that power tools are prohibited in the studio.

Safety

Please use every precaution in the studio.

Policy on Retaining Work

The University of Florida, College of Design, Construction, and Planning policy states that student work may be retained indefinitely for academic purposes. VIA program work is exhibited or photographed during or after the term. Having your work retained for photography or exhibition is evidence of its quality and value to the School. You will be able either to retrieve your original work or retrieve it temporarily to make copies or photograph it for your personal use if it is retained for the school archives.

Attendance

There is no possibility to make up a missed studio session. Notes will be useless, and although a long conversation with a fellow student will help you begin to figure out what to do to prepare for the next session, it can never make up the learning. A session with your professor may or may not be possible and cannot duplicate the collective conversation. As a result our policy on attendance is extremely strict:

ANY absence must be explained; i.e. call into the office and have a note left for your professor or an email prior to the absence. It is your responsibility to get the assignments from your fellow students. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade and excessive absences can result in a failing grade. Three absences will result in a full grade reduction, and five absences will result in automatic failure of the course. Lateness is not permitted, and persistent lateness will be counted as absences. It is never permissible to miss a Critique, nor is it permissible to be late or to leave early. It will be considered a direct insult to your fellow classmates and the invited critics.

If something is seriously wrong please do not hesitate to talk to your professor about it. Arrangements will be made to cope with serious illness, family or personal crises.

Performance

As you know, there are no tests in Design. There are also no right or wrong answers per se. You will not be taking in information over the course of the term and regurgitating it in another form. You will begin as you will go on - by making things over and over and over. Each time you will take on new questions or the same questions at another level of sophistication. Therefore, there is no single answer for which we are looking. We will give you feedback on the directions you have taken, suggestions for further work, and assess the architectural implications of your projects.

Our goals for you are: (1.) to have at your fingertips a thousand fruitful ways to approach any problem (2.) to learn to critique yourselves effectively. What we ask from you is a concerted effort, an innovative approach to the problem, constructions that raise architectural issues, and, most importantly, for you to challenge yourself and be constantly willing to continue to develop a scheme. Grades will be assigned as much on dedication and improvement as on talent - if you enter the course gifted and sit on your skill, you will not get an A.

You will be graded not only on the work itself but also in your ability to perform on the goals stated above. All grading will follow UF policies that you can find at: <http://vl\vw.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

To clarify the system of grading for studio classes:

- A Outstanding work only
- A- Close to outstanding
- B+ Very Good Work
- B Good Work
- B- Good work with some problems
- C+ Slightly Above Average Work
- C Average Work
- C- Average Work with some problems
- D+ Poor Work with some effort
- D Poor Work
- E Inadequate Work

Regarding accommodations for students with disabilities "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please provide this documentation at your earliest convenience to allow for the accommodation to be addressed as soon as possible.