PROTOTYPE vs PAPER ARCHITECTURE

Methods of critical exploration and means of representation have shifted over the past quarter century. In the 1980's many architects turned toward the academy because economic conditions drastically curtailed building commissions. During this time, the work of ‘paper architects’ reflects a period where intellectual debate and abstract graphic representation became an established proactive mode of research. Today, emerging from a comparable economic climate, architects are finding themselves engaged in similar practices. Aided by advances in technology, today’s preferred method of exploration has shifted from 2-dimensional drawing to scaled 3-dimensional artifacts; evident in venues like the PS1 MoMA’s Young Architect program, the Architectural Association’s Summer Pavilion series, and many other small-scale fabrication orientated endeavors. In this graduate seminar students will investigate ‘paper architecture’, construct a history around ‘prototype architecture’, and develop a catalog, which places these two means of production in the current architectural dialog.


University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | School of Architecture
ARCH 576 PVP | Tue 2-4:50 pm | Architecture Annex | Assistant Professor Kevin Erickson