Studio Description

Architecture, planning and landscape architecture are studied through an analysis of intentions, values and priorities of human needs. Urban Spatial Structures will involve a theoretical study of urban forms and land uses with organizational principals, patterns and interactions of the Chicago Urban Riverfront. Topics from Landscape Architecture include an in-depth study of site aesthetics, functions, environmental influences and elements from theory and practice.

Goals

1. **Integrated Design Studio:** To focus on the essence of meaningful built environments and appropriate responses to natural, historical and cultural contexts.
2. **Design Studio:** To understand the concepts related to meaning in architecture and develop ability to express concepts as part of the design process. To explore how the built environment reflects society’s aims and priorities in specific historical and cultural contexts.
3. **Urban Spatial Structures:** The theoretical study of urban patterns and the underlying set of interactions that integrate land uses and the organizational principles that link the subsystems of patterns and interactions together into the city system.
4. **Landscape Architecture:** To develop an understanding of and ability to work with the natural and manmade (existing structure and ordinances), in the environment.
Museum Syllabus

Museum architecture exists to serve the social and cultural needs of society. Museums provide a physical fabric to contain past and present cultural character as markers of our evolution into the future. Museum architecture as a form of expression is also arguably one of the late 20th century’s and early 21st century’s major opportunities for creating civic urban places.

The museum project will seek to confront and analyze a number of profound issues on expectations for new urban museum architecture and campus. The following issues will be addressed:

1. To establish an urban presence, an architectural form with permanence, dignity and integrity.
2. To reflect both physical and social context (local and regional).
3. To search for simplicity so as to not overwhelm what is contained.
4. To search for timeless architecture to represent the past, express the present and anticipate the future.
5. To create an edifice dedicated to people who want to experience their heritage, to engage in scholarship and research, and be a repository of historical and contemporary artifacts.
6. Unique to the development of contemporary museum architecture is the utilization of both natural and artificial lighting in the galleries and public spaces. The development and use of both natural and artificial lighting has a profound but restrained effect on the gallery cross-section. The cross-section of the form enclosure for public spaces (i.e. lobby, reception halls, major circulation, etc.), is far less inhibited in how it is shaped to manipulate the introduction of natural light. The development of the architectural cross-section as it relates to space enclosure, structure and light will be key design component of the of the museum project.

THE CHALLENGE: The Chicago Maritime Crafts and Small Vessel Museum

Site: The site for the Museum Project is on the north bank of the Chicago River, just east of the new riverfront Apple Store. It is presently a city parking. The city intends to design and activate a complete pedestrian Riverwalk on the north side of the Chicago River beginning with the new Apple Store at the juncture of the Michigan Avenue Bridge, all the way to the east to where the river intersects with Lake Michigan. This new riverfront walk will include retail, dining and cultural amenities that will lead to connections with Lake Michigan and Navy Pier. Students will engage the urban design of the Riverwalk district, the landscape design of the walk, and the design of the new museum. Students will also investigate a second site east of Lakeshore Drive.

The museum’s collection will be noteworthy for its galleries of historical maritime crafts including furniture, textiles, utensils, utilitarian objects, ceramics, and ship/boat navigation artifacts – all arts and crafts that celebrate the historic maritime period of the region. Collections of Great Lakes regional importance will be emphasized, but items of national importance may be exhibited also. The Museum will house a permanent collection with a minimum of two-three exhibitions per year. Travelling
exhibitions will also be displayed. **The museum will also include 2 to 4 large scale galleries to house small to mid-size maritime Great Lakes vessels of historic importance that will interface/interact with the Chicago River and/or Lake Michigan.**

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. **Concepts: Metaphorical Dreams versus Techno Nightmares.**

2. **Defining the Client, Constituents and Everybody’s Uncle: Who are we designing for?**

3. **Program vs Programme: Facts vs Goals and Aspirations.**

4. **Ethics and Value Systems: Spirit of the Law versus Direct Application.**

5. **Building Structures as Art: Normative Structure versus Aesthetic Structure.**

6. **The Expressive Gallery: Implications of natural Light on structure and materials on the Gallery Form as related to viewing artifacts.**

7. **European Museums: Rebuilding the Social and Physical Fabric of European Urban Communities.**