“Severing the architect from the means and methods of construction is somewhat like permitting the writer to use a certain vocabulary, but disassociating it from the very alphabet form which the text emerges.”

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Introduction

The value of craft in contemporary architectural education and practice cannot be understated. While recent generations have experienced increased emphasis and investment in strictly digital methods of investigation, recent trends have recognized the importance of the physical product, as demonstrated through evolving discussions on fabrication, material tendencies and potentials, digital craft, and design intelligence. The premise of this class is rooted in the knowledge we access by making and strives to construct a design consciousness that combines a heightened material sensibility with a refined understanding of fabrication.

Methodology

Prototyping places a heavy emphasis on iterative making. This type of approach is investigative and experimental in nature, offering a methodology of design that accumulates knowledge and leads to physical refinement of made products. The goal of this methodology is to make the intentions and experience of designed objects to be tangible to students throughout the entire process of design, fabrication, and refinement.

Course Description

This course is seminar-based and will move between group discussion and live demonstrations to hands on instruction with tools and materials. The students will be forced to move quickly through the conceptual design stages to focus their representation and thinking on methods of fabrication and interaction. On a weekly basis, students will be required to advance the physical design and then present the methods and tools they utilized. Throughout the semester, the students will be exposed to different tool and material strategies that correlate to an increasing level of complexity and refinement. The final product will be displayed in a gallery format with all the physical iterations throughout the semester to promote tangibility in the discussion about materials and tools unique abilities to produce experiential qualities.