ARCH 3601 – Writing Architecture

ARCH 3102 – Architecture Design Studio 6

PREMISE

Writing is integral to architecture.

It lurks within the design process in ways that are often invisible or transparent. Writing at the beginning of the design process is open and discursive in order to generate ideas and reasons for a project. Writing after a design is completed can be interrogative and evaluative in order to better understand or explain a project.

This course will introduce forms of writing that enhance both the process and the understanding of design and will demonstrate how these forms serve to create and explore ideas that are not always evident in studio making alone.

OBJECTIVES

(1) Employ thoughtful reading and writing as tools in the ideation and making of architecture;
(2) Increase appreciation and awareness of different genres of architectural writing and the ways they express architectural ideas; and
(3) Engage in critical writing exercises to improve the quality and expressive voice.

CONTENT

The course will survey genres of writing relevant to architecture and its critical discourse: description / analysis, reflection, criticism, and narrative.

METHOD

The course meets twice a week and is structured around readings, full-group lectures, small seminar group discussions, and student writing. Lectures will be presented to all three sections every few weeks to introduce a particular topic about architecture and writing. Each lecture is accompanied by a reading set. Small group discussions and writing sessions with individual section leaders will require students’ thoughtful consideration of the topics from the lectures and readings. Writing assignments will be assigned, critiqued, and shared in these seminars.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Most course readings will be made available to students on the course Moodle site. However, students are asked to own the following two books:
