

ARCH 4050 / 6050 . MARK~

Instructor: Kelly Carlson-Reddig, Associate Professor
Meetings: T 2:00-4:45
Location: UNC Charlotte Center City Building, Uptown
Credit Hours: 4050: 3 Undergrad Cr. Hr. / 6050: 3 Graduate Cr. Hr.

MARK

- **Noun:** Thing (material embodiment-Evidence)
- **Verb:** Action (human engagement) to MARK Something

Premise / Theme

This seminar engages the material, haptic, and aesthetic realms of the “MARK” in the context of architecture. MARKS in architecture arise at the intersection of materiality and technique. They exist at the intimate scales of the material surface and constructional detail, and are characterized by visual and tactile distinctions. They include the formwork texture of a concrete surface, the bonding patterns of masonry, the grain and carved surfaces of wood, patterned arrays of fasteners, heat and finishing marks, and the visual and tactile, natural and modified, surfaces and tooling marks in all materials. MARKS are conceived through design and realized in the acts of making, craft, construction, fabrication, and assembly. All architects should know the basics of materials and construction, but those who aspire to phenomenological or aesthetic poetry of architecture’s materiality must know more, and must focus with a different lens.

Themes:

- Mark Language, Intentions, Concepts
- Marks in Art and Craft
- Making Processes (Hand Craft, Digital Fabrication, Construction, Tools)
- Marks in Architecture
- Tectonics, Details, Ornament, Joints and Surfaces
- Materiality (Concrete, Masonry, Wood, Metals, Glass, Synthetics)
- Time and Weathering

Goals and Objectives

- Gain appreciation of the significance of Marks in the context of art, craft, and architecture
- Develop conceptual frames for understanding architectural Marks related to aesthetics, meaning, process, purpose, design, and making
- Deepen awareness of architectural Mark conditions by studying exemplary projects
- Gain design inspiration from materiality and making processes
- Engage related design thinking through focused design investigations at different scales, with different intentions, and with varied materials

Content & Structure

The seminar will engage the study of Mark making through lectures, readings and focused design speculations related to specific architectural moments--such as walls, fenestrations, joints, surfaces and transitions--considering different materials, tools, processes, and variables. Design studies and case studies will be made and presented as the primary course requirements; the final semester requirement will entail composing a portfolio of this work.

Readings

Relevant weekly readings will be selected.

