SITE / CONTEXT: Situated Sensations

Studio Description

“Any work of architecture, before it is an object, is a transformation of the landscape.”

— Stan Allen

Premise

The third semester studio focuses on methods and processes of designing fundamentals of spatial experience in relationship to the site. Though a series of exercises, the students are expected to speculate architectural interventions translating conceptual experiments into inhabitable spaces situated as a part of the landscape. Building upon comprehensive site analysis exploring layers of visible and invisible content; natural and cultural forces; historical infrastructures, and so on—these building proposals are meant to probe architecture as medium that 1) connects human senses to the landscape and atmosphere; and 2) transforms elements of the built environment into perceivable experiences.

Content

This studio encompasses two major phases: the conceptual framework—ARCHITECTURE AND SENSES: transformation of the body; and the architectural project—ARCHITECTURE AND SITE: transformation of the landscape. The conceptual step builds towards the integration of architectural precedent study, complex geometries, tectonics, scale, and aggregation. Students will develop tangible devices that derive from body terrains, and are at the same time sensory organs for one to perceive the tactility, visibility, or audibility of atmospheric materials these pieces collect and contain. The second phase transitions from operating on bodily scale and individuated perception. Design exercises will guide students to work with specific site and program in Chicago. Both two stages investigate design and fabrication methods of reconstructing the “ground” into immersive experience.

Digital drawing and modeling are the emphasis in this studio. Rhino tutorials with assignments will be closely aligning with the design process throughout the semester. Building upon analog techniques including physical making and hand drafting developed in the previous studios, digital skills are expected to be comprehensively used to facilitate design, fabrication, and representation processes.

A field trip to Chicago is scheduled from October 11th to October 15th. Activities include site visit, walking or in-depth tours of a number of buildings, campuses, and urban districts, as well as Chicago Biennial. Attendance of this trip is required.

Objectives

• To expand and integrate skills developed in foundation studios on form, space and order into the precision of design and making sophisticated systems and assemblies.
• To understand the relationship between the human body and the architecture in context through precedent studies, selected readings, observations, visual experiments and physical prototypes.
• To convey abstract thinking into tangible spaces through intensive making exercises with highest level of craft.
• To develop digital techniques, and to synthesize digital and analog tools in design and representation.
• To conduct conceptual and comprehensive site analysis.
• To develop architectural strategies for siting, programing, circulation, and experience, inspired by the conceptual framework.

NAAB Criteria:

This studio will include content related to the following NAAB Student Performance Criteria:

A.1-Professional Communication Skills
A.2-Design Thinking Skills
A.6-Use of Precedents
B.1-Pre-Design
B.2-Site Design