

FALL 2017

ARCH 4/584: A RURAL DESIGN STUDIO A NEW FIELD STATION FOR MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PLACE

This studio offers students the opportunity to explore the magnificent landscapes and built environments of the high desert of Eastern Oregon. The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which was in the headlines in 2016, because of its occupation, has a complex history of settlement patterns and landscape interventions. Located in the southwestern part of Oregon in the Great Basin landscape, the Refuge is an area rich with geologic formations and a variety of habitats including sagebrush plateaus, flat valley floors with lush riparian edges and alkaline lakes. One of the oldest wildlife preserves in the United States, the Refuge was founded under Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to preserve birds that were being slaughtered for ladies' hat feathers. It has a fascinating cultural history and native peoples, fur trappers, sheepherders, soldiers, ranchers have all inhabited the area. Today it is beloved by birders and naturalists, who have joined the mix.

PROJECT

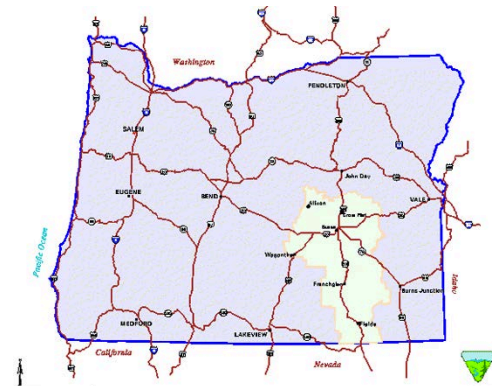
The studio project is to design a replacement and/or renovations for the Malheur Field Station. The existing Field Station, located by Coyote Butte in a particularly barren place on the Refuge, was built as a Youth Corps Center site during the late 1960's and operated as an alternate to prison for young people who were in trouble. The site included dormitories, a dining complex, a gym and job training facilities, as well as housing for staff. When funding for the Youth Corps ended, a consortium of educational institutions, including the University of Oregon, transformed it into the Malheur Environmental Field Station for educational purposes. Since 1986 it has been run as a non-profit environmental education center, called the Malheur Field Station, that offers a wide-ranging set of educational programs, hosts conferences and provides lodging, dining and information for individuals, families and groups ranging from elementary school children to elder hostel participants. The existing facilities have had minimal upgrades over the years and are sadly lacking in any connection to the magic of the place of the Refuge.

DESIGN ISSUES

Design issues for a new field station range from planning large sites in the landscape to design and detailing of cabins for housing researchers and visitors.

- Site planning – selecting a site and integrating it with a remarkable landscape
- Building form and rural character | materials and detail and the evocation of place
- Innovation in sustainable strategies

How can the new field center become a model for sustainable and regenerative building?



Oregon with location of Refuge



Refuge landscape



View of the Field Station from Coyote Butte

Any new design proposals need to integrate environmental considerations to produce net zero buildings. Design explorations will include siting and orientation, passive / active energy systems, materials and landscaping. Participating in the COTE competition will be an encouraged option.

REQUIRED FIELD TRIP

The studio will have a required field trip – early Friday am (Sept 29) until Sunday pm (Oct 1) at the end of the first week of fall term. Costs for the field trip will be **\$60 for lodging (2 nights) plus food and transportation costs**. Students who need scholarship aid for these expenses should contact the Department. We will reserve rooms with cooking facilities, so we will organize and share cooking and clean-up. **We will need UO certified drivers, so that we can take state vehicles.**

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Emphasis will be on a mutually supportive studio environment. Studio work will begin with conceptual design and research investigations and continue into design development, recycling to hone ideas and explore appropriate expression. Work must be developed and shared in the Lawrence Hall studio throughout the term. The required field trip, sketch problems, and precedent studies will enrich individual work in developing design proposals. Class meetings include a variety of communication and project-development formats including desk critiques, pin-ups, reviews, in-class discussions, teamwork sessions, lectures, and field trips. Reviews will be organized so that students revolve through small groups over the course of the term. Design critiques will include feedback from peers as well as the instructor. Students are required to keep design journals as an ongoing recording of studio investigations.



Riparian landscape



Rim rock landscape – sagebrush plateau



Round Barn



Historic Frenchglen Hotel



Steens Mountain landscape



Headquarters, CCC project from the 30s