FOODSPACE

Food, architecture and the city in the post-Covid-19 era

This project is a catalyst for a local food production system that supports alternatives to the large-scale, corporate conglomerates now dominating the food industry. Besides bringing local, nutritious food to market, such a new system supports local economies, helps eliminate “food deserts” that harm low-income communities, and cuts down on the disastrous environmental impacts of modern agriculture. The coronavirus pandemic is exposing vulnerabilities in food supply chains, and local production is more resilient. The instructor has a special interest in food and cities, that figured strongly in his recent book Working Cities: Architecture, Place and Production.

The project brings social importance to the design of a complex urban building with a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces. The site, to be determined in a fall-term seminar, is likely to be in Portland or Eugene. In about 60,000-80,000 sq. ft, the project will tentatively include:

- And possibly a garden for growing vegetables and supplying honey

The exact program will be developed by the group during the fall seminar.

So while focused on food, this project involves the architecture of an innovative urban building that may play a large role in the revitalization of an important neighborhood and act as a model for similar projects in other places. During the design and construction of a number of libraries and other public buildings in the favelas of Medellin, Colombia, the mayor said that “Our most beautiful buildings should be in our poorest areas.” One of the aims of this project is to show that buildings of strong social purpose may also be buildings of architectural beauty and significance.

**Fall seminar.** A two credit fall seminar will precede the studio. The seminar will involve:

- Readings and discussions about food and urban food systems
- Detailed development of the institutional and architectural program
- Development of individual emphases within the overall program: each student will define and develop a particular piece of her/his own choice.
- Investigation of relevant precedents
- Choice and investigations of site.

The seminar will allow for design to begin at the very beginning of winter term, resulting in the schematic design of the building by term’s end. Spring term will involve building development and the preparation of a professional-quality final presentation.