HOUSE OF LEARNING:
How do we want to learn?

‘How to learn?’ is one of the oldest and frequently studied questions at the intersections of Architecture and Interiors and arguably one of the most critical issues of the contemporary world build upon life-long learning.

This terminal studio project is a school - a proposed community school for Higher Education. It shall offer an open educational perspective, with specific relationships to site and program, representing endeavors to improve education and create spaces for social interactions.

It is approx. 60,000 – 80,000 sqft. (two stories) with multiuse halls and differentiated classrooms. Adjacent buildings and spaces, indoor and outdoor, include spaces for the arts, sports, gardening, technologies, play areas, cafeteria, kitchen, music stage, administration, gym, and parking.

All learning spaces share an experimental and sensuous architectural design and an unmistakable character.

This seminar will examine architecture, interiors, and furniture design, which stress the physicality of building and habitation as the catalyst for exploring the potential within any given undertaking. It requires of all elements an attentiveness in equal measure to the mechanics and the poetics of everyday to design a sound future.

There are two possible sites -- either in Portland, Oregon, or in SW Germany. Both sites are part of a larger urban development project for educationally innovative learning and living environments. The Portland project at large, on four acres, includes Social Housing, Assisted Living, a Wellness center, and Theater: Affordable Housing, Independent and Assisted Living, and Memory Care. The site is Germany is open land, embedded in a rich cultural heritage. It is asking for a spatial organization that is sensitively linked and integrated, yet making effective use of the land. Both schools serve the needs and worlds of immigrant and refugee communities.

ARCH 407/507 Terminal Prep. Seminar
The seminar will precede the studio and will include individual and some teamwork.

Two – three credits
2:15 – 3:45 pm LA 278
4:15 – 5:45 pm remote

*Enough time has passed for us to have seen what happens when we lose sight of the real project of schools. That is why we are ready to embrace again the vision that motivated my grandparents, the vision of schoolhouse and classroom as one material world centered on the child.*

— Thomas Mueller VS Furniture

Course Timeline
**wk1+2:** The beginning of the seminar will focus on analysis and (re)interpretation of select architectural precedents, including traditional, health-and child-centered schools, and works by Th. Fischer, B. Taut, E.+E. Saarinen, R. Neutra, H. Scharoun, H. Hertzberger, Le Corbusier, Breuer, Behnisch, Vaccini, Foster, MarteMarte, D.F. Kere, Anna Heringer, and Transsolar. These investigations will be studied alongside with key texts, including writings from Fried, Schiller, Rudolf Steiner, Maria Montessori, Bruce Mau, and Mark Dudeck.

__Case study work to develop an understanding for schools, both from a conceptual and a social viewpoint.__

__Site-investigation.__

**wk3-5:** Students generate and develop their architectural concept and configuration in a tandem development of design and analysis. Examine theoretical writing, principles, practices used or implied in the design of schools from significant periods of architecture, and design. Practice analysis of school buildings and its associated impact on the social engineering of how we learn.

__Material investigation, and vernacular techniques that support health and wellbeing, sustainable elements, and socio-cultural involvement and connection to community.__

__Site-analysis and energy concepts.__

**wk6-8:** Catalog of historic, modern and contemporary schools and prototypes for learning spaces that exemplify the necessary discourse on changing environments. The goal is: Build for change, offering and inviting flexibility, adaptability, and versatility.

__Development of a detailed program, space layout, room and furniture concept, and a proposed timeline.__

__Decision of site.__

**wk9+10:** Finalizing architectural and learning concept and configuration in a comprehensive Thesis.