ARCH 283 | Winter 2020
Architectural Design I: Architecture & Environment
University of Oregon

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Context of the studio

In this introductory design studio, we connect the traditional elements of Cartesian space making—point, line, and plane—with the elements and phenomena—time, sun, atmosphere, earth, and water—that make up the natural world. We use architectural design to shape the human experience of earth, atmosphere, sun, and water in the context of the built environment.

In this studio, we challenge preconceptions that architecture is the individual design of freestanding objects by offering collaborative design processes and exercises for designing spaces that connect. In this studio, we value the breadth of diverse experiences that each student brings to the pedagogical space and we benefit from multicultural perspectives (in readings and case studies) in architecture, interior architecture, and landscape architecture.

Objectives

Through short assignments and a major project, studio participants will develop:

• The ability to understand and critique interior and exterior spatial qualities of design proposals.

• Agility in working iteratively and incrementally at various scales and with various design tools to solve architectural design problems.

• The ability to present an idea clearly verbally and graphically.

• Critical voices in evaluating design decisions.

• A sense of the role of material and experiential elements—time, earth, sun, atmosphere, and water—in the multi-sensory experience of space.

• Skills in working in multifaceted teams.

• The ability to integrate reading, diagramming, and talking about ideas into the design studio process.

“It is necessary to take the word nature here in its widest sense, that is, the one which includes the domain of physical beings, and the realm of moral or intellectual things. … Nature exists as much in what she has of the invisible as in what strikes the eyes.”

Quatremere de Quincy, 1788

“Contemporary ecological theory may provide a parallel here. If the technical, practical, and representational conditions architecture is to sustain take into account not only natural phenomena but also cultural norms, as embodied in urban situations, my sense of “orientation” can be seen to parallel the mandate to think widely and act locally.”

David Leatherbarrow, 2009