In recent decades, the explosion of high-end boutique wineries has afforded architects occasion to explore the expressive potential and practical realities of materials and details in stunning landscape settings. In so doing, architects have built some of their most exquisite and compelling work.

Purpose
This studio will emphasize design integration in the context of an explicit intention to craft evocative, aesthetically meaningful buildings. Students will be asked to make buildings of strong character with an identity that derives primarily from the materials and systems of construction they employ. The goal will be to make beautiful space, light, and architectural form using expressive systems of structure, construction, and high-performance enclosures. This studio will be an opportunity to make comprehensive designs in preparation for the terminal studio level.

Project
The project will draw on the rich typology of wineries with production facilities, tasting rooms, and hospitality spaces. A site will be selected in the Oregon Wine Country, northwest of Eugene. The buildings must engage the landform and each other to make a series of work and visitor spaces, inside and out. Consistent with the overall culture of fine wine, the buildings must reflect an ethos of appropriate technology and environmental responsibility. The principal building material may be wood, steel, or concrete, with careful use of glass, and other materials at the designer’s discretion.

Process
Working through the elements of the program, from small to large, a construction vocabulary will be developed for the winery as a whole. The full range of media for design development will be required: sketches and topographic models to explore the site, digital and physical models to test the relationship between space and structure, freehand and measured drawings for generative details in the system of enclosure.

Field Trip
We might be able to arrange a field trip to the site on the first Friday of the term, April 2, observing appropriate social distancing and COVID safety protocols and providing digital means for students attending studio from remote locations to participate. As soon as we know who is in the studio, we will hold a brief studio organization meeting to discuss.

Buildings: Martins Lane Winery – Tom Kundig | Ashes + Diamonds – Bestor Architecture (top)
Odette Estate – Signum Architecture | Penner Ash Winery – Waterleaf Architecture (below)