This building should be “an icon of aesthetics, is a cultural institution, restaurant, a library and an architectural gem...” The Nordic people who came in great numbers to the mouth of the Columbia River, settled on both sides of the river. The main town was Astoria. The Nordic-Americans were loggers, fishers and farmers. They brought with them a sense of community and a strong work ethic, they along with the Chinese made this place. This facility will honor their culture, and provide a new meeting place for them, and others who wish to know more about this important group of people in this remoter part of the United States.

In addition to the comprehensive design of a building/s, issues to be addressed in the studio are: lighting, materials and logic of construction, clarity of organization, interior/exterior connection, sustainability, and the image of an important civic building.

Winter term, we will focus on site, precedent/program, and schematic design. We will look at building code, structure and construction to understand their impact on design. Spring term, we will develop the schemes through a weekly series of focused studies that will help to develop the design.