Seattle is ground-zero for the coffee industry in North America. In this studio you will take on the design of a multi-story mixed-use building on a beautiful historic street in Seattle that will house a museum of coffee and espresso, a high-end café and roastery, street-level cooking and coffee-related retail, and on the upper floors, professional studios or housing. The museum will have spaces dedicated to the history, farming, and culture of coffee, but at its heart will be galleries containing one of the great collections of historic and contemporary espresso machines in the world.

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 and should be considered an advanced vertical studio drawing on students’ substantive preparation in systems of construction, structure and ECS, or their willingness to develop competence in those technical issues quickly.

Project
The project will draw on the rich typologies of mixed-use urban buildings, museums, and high-end cafés. The site is in the historic district of Ballard in Seattle on an avenue populated with lovely old brick buildings and street trees. Buildings must engage the street and urban context and demonstrate an ethos of sensitivity to the neighborhood context, appropriate technology, and environmental responsibility. The principal structural material will be heavy and mass timber, with careful use of concrete, steel, glass, rammed earth, or other 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 building. The full range of media for design development will be required: diagrams and concept models as generative tools to develop architectural ideas; sketches and site models to explore the urban context; digital and physical models to test the relationship between structure, space, and light; freehand and measured drawings for generative details in the systems of structure, construction, and enclosure.

Field Trip
We will travel to Seattle on a field trip to visit the site and coffee industry at the end of the first week of studio. There is lots of world-class architecture to see in Seattle and the city itself is wonderful; students will have opportunity to extend their stay into the weekend for additional time to explore and study. As soon as we know who will be taking the studio, we will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss logistics.