"The acceptance of certain realities doesn't preclude idealism. It can lead to certain breakthroughs."

Rem Koolhaas

THE FIT. Main Street Public Art, Urban Infill, and Adaptive Re-Use.
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Design issues to be stressed in this studio include Placemaking, Site Planning, Urban Planning, Sustainable deployment of material and resource management like daylighting, building envelope, and HVAC strategies, Pedestrian and User amenities, Spatial engagement, Mixed Use and Hybrid briefs, Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse.

The project is an extension of facilities at the Emerald Art Center around its existing home, incorporating existing public art. The brief contains the creation of an active public place that encourages spill-over from the activities at the Art Center.

Currently the Emerald Art Center, a hub for the Springfield local arts community since 1957, is underserved in its present home, an historic commercial building that is has renovated since being purchased 18 years ago. The structure is classified NC, or non-contributing as a historic resource, due to alterations. It has three large murals, one by Matt Groening, the artistic creator of The Simpsons on 5th Street, another covering the entirety of the East party wall, and a third mural on the wall facing the alley. These murals are to remain viewable by the public in the positions they now hold.

The project site is on a southerly facing half-block on Main Street. The half block is 'bookended' by two historic commercial structures, the National Register of Historic Places listed Springfield History Museum at 6th and Main Streets (the 1911 Oregon Electric Power Company), and the Emerald Art Center at 5th and Main Streets (the 1909 Sutton Block). The current parking lot between these two buildings, a product of 1970s Urban Renewal, is the location the project will occupy. A public alley runs along the northern site boundary.

The studio will begin with site analysis that will look at planning documents as well as analyzing physical phenomena, opportunities, or constraints present at the site. We will use...
proposed planning guidelines to model the immediate vicinity of the site, as it may be soon developed. This is followed by programming and user meeting along with form studies using the site analysis.

Various media types will be stressed at different phases of the design process, in particular diagrams, models, and perspectives will be an essential part of the studio. Weekly pin ups will be used to structure the design process and to serve as a vehicle for discussion of the primary issues of the studio. I will emphasize hand media.

"When I'm working on a problem, I never think about beauty. But when I've finished, if the solution is not beautiful... I know it's wrong."
Buckminster Fuller

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible."
Jonathan Swift

"Quotation is a serviceable substitute for wit."

Oscar Wilde