So Very Social

Intervention and Adaptive Reuse for Multipurpose Social Center

In this “real life” studio we will help our client develop a program and design proposals for a building they have purchased and will be remodeling in the near future. Our client is the ARC of Benton County an organization that among other things provides social services for people with developmental delays and cognitive impairments. This small +/-5,000 space will be designed as an open ended social hub for the ARC’s clients. Our research and design process will focus on universal design principles and strategic design interventions to create a supportive, inspiring and beautiful space.

Beginning from a starter program, student groups will research issues and options to complete a design program that include a multipurpose social center for ARC clients and administrative offices for the ARC staff. The 5,000 sq. foot space is generous for this program so we will be working closely with the ARC staff and clients to propose other programmed spaces.

Our site is a undistinguished restaurant building in Corvallis Oregon. Built using simple economical structural and building systems this little box is inherently adaptable. In this studio we will examine the logic of our little box building as a site and identify opportunities for interior development as well as strategic interventions to the landscape and entry sequence. The small footprint of the building and simple spaces will allow us to develop designs to include interior detailing, finishes and furnishings.

**Special Objectives**

- to engage the program with a focus on critical goals, not just square footage requirements.
- To use design to respond to varied challenges of the user group... including autism, developmental delays and physical limitations.
- to develop strategies for integrating natural light, interior elements and building systems to create a more engaging and sustainable little box.

**Methods of Working**

- a starter program, site visits, interviews and research will form a basis for teams to build a compelling program.
- a comprehensive adaptive reuse of the building will require students to integrate indoor outdoor connections, structural and skin issues and targeted strategic interventions in the building will be allowed.
- Presentations and “take aways” for clients will be produced by groups and individual