arch_weekly note

I hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving break. It is always nice to spend time with friends and family and eat too much. With Thanksgiving behind, it is time to push toward the semester's finish line. Now is the time to put that last bit of love into your projects and put your best up on the wall. It is also time to pace yourself and make sure you schedule time to rest, as well as work.

We are excited this week to start introducing the lives and work of some of our amazing alumni. A big thanks to Craig Schultz, who is also our Professional Advisory Board Chair, for the info.

Have a great week.

Matthew Knox AIA
Professor and Department Head

arch_design studio
Professor Nathan Howe’s fifth year studio

The parametric design studio, taught by Associate Professor Nathan Howe, focuses on redefining architecture through unique solutions and innovative ideas specifically through the process of parametric design. The studio is currently focusing on steel application and parametric software such as Grasshopper, in which the students will implement in one of the four chosen project types in San Francisco (Church, Bus Terminal, Information Archive, and Institute of Architecture) to submit their designs to the ACSA Student Steel Design Competition. The image below shows a hypothetical aggregation study of what can be done using parametric tools, and in this case Grasshopper. In the spring semester the studio will begin the design process, delving deeper into performative-based design and create a final design project that will be a testament to innovative architectural designing methods.
Craig Schultz
Partner, Laidlaw Schultz Architects
Professional Advisory Board Chair

Where do you live?
Southern California - specifically Long Beach. Our practice is located in Corona del Mar, a small seaside neighborhood of Newport Beach.

Tell us about your work.
The short answer: We're a mix of high end custom residential and design oriented commercial work.
The long answer: Philosophically the work centers on a strong desire to create unified spaces that share a similar language between indoor spaces and outdoor spaces. Generally speaking this is handled through a shared material palette, a strong sense of layering, textures, and a balancing between warms and cools. Ultimately, the goal is to create inviting spaces that offer a poetic reading that don't tire over time.

When did you graduate from K-State?
1987 - good grief has it been that long!

Any words of wisdom for our current students?
Make good friends (preferably ones that are better then you); work in studio; learn the technical aspects of the profession, but don't let that stifle you; pick one detail that is at the
heart of your design and make it part of your project, then make your professors show you how to keep the water out; come to terms that this is a time profession, the harder and longer you work on it the better it and you are going to be; take a class outside the college, I still reference a 20th century art class that I audited; and find an outside interest, preferably something that might serve as another way to view the world.

Who is your favorite architect?
As a source of inspiration there is obviously a debt to the work of Le Corbusier's as well as Neutra's oeuvre along with the principals established throughout the early case study houses. Additionally, Mies' brick house and the Barcelona Pavilion continue to be an underlying muse. On an inspirational level, I would point to the ideals established within the New York School of painters, in particular the notion that meaning lies at a level deeper than representation. I also find the work of James Turrell, Ruth Asawa, and Mark Rothko to bring an inspirational perspective to both light and texture.

What do you like best about your job?
I have to admit I still love that dreamy state of designing; when you have that cup of coffee at your desk, the start of an idea, and a big fat pen in your hand.

What did you want to be when you were a child?
I didn't have a word for it but I always told by folks that I wanted to be a builder. As a kid I loved designing something and then heading down to my workshop and trying to build it. I still can't believe my parents put the kibosh on my dream to add an elevator to the side of the house.

Can you tell us something funny or strange about yourself?
To the chagrin of my wife and the studio, I find myself inadvertently whistling and tapping when everything is going well.

Check out this video of the Brown Residence, by Laidlaw Schultz Architecture.

arch_winners
Professor Dragoslav Simic's fifth year Wonder Workshop studio will receive $7,000 for winning the Green Spaces Make Great Places contest sponsored by Toro. This money will be used to improve the adventure garden outdoor features of the children's museum, The Wonder Workshop. Congratulations!

arch_department announcements
The 2015 Gensler Diversity Scholarship deadline for application is Monday, December
8th, by 12 am EST. Students may download the scholarship brochure, complete the online application and view a gallery of previous winners at: http://www.gensler.com/scholarships. Should you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to contact us at diversity@gensler.com.

The Graduate Student Council is accepting abstracts for the annual K-State Research Forum, scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st, in the Student Union. Graduate students may give a poster or oral presentation. Abstracts are due December 19th via email to egsc@ksu.edu and application guidelines and more information can be found here.

Our 2014 Alumni Honoree Gregory Spaw will be visiting this Thursday and Friday. Greg is currently teaching at Carnegie Mellon University through the Ann Kalla Professorship in Architecture. He is also principal of SHO. If you see him in the halls please welcome him back to his alma mater.

A draft of the final review schedule can be found here.

arch_projects

Project update from Katherine Gutierrez, fifth year architecture student, participating in the AEI Competition with K-State ARCHE.

"The AEI Competition challenge is to address design, integration, and construction issues that must be considered for an urban commercial farm housed in a five story building with a basement area consisting of approximately 50,000 total square feet. The ARCHE team and has decided to take an educational approach to the project as it is sited in a residential community. Improvements to the building form and function have been considered and currently the team is in the process of developing research to back up our design decisions. The opportunity to work with ARCHE students has truly opened my eyes to the importance of integration and collaboration between other disciplines. I hope APDesign will push for more opportunities such as this for the students in the future."

arch_upcoming events

DECEMBER

4-5 Alumni Honoree events

12 Manko Design Competition at 1:30 pm in the Pierce

15-19 Finals week

18 APDesign faculty/staff Holiday Party at 7 pm at Aggie Station

22 Second through fourth year students must be moved out of studio and keys returned to Seaton 211

23 Fall term grades due by noon on iSIS