ARCH 574—Historic Preservation Design Studio, Fall 2015
Instructor: Paul Hardin Kapp, Associate Professor
Project: “A Museum for Greenhouse Gases”
Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge World Heritage Site, Shropshire, UK

Key Words: Outstanding Universal Value, Adaptive Reuse, Historic Preservation, World Heritage Sites

Project Description:

This project offers students an opportunity to design within a World Heritage Site. The proposed studio project will be to adapt and transform the “Long Warehouse” at the Historic Coalbrookdale Foundry into a new museum facility for the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT). Located adjacent to the famous Darby Furnace and within the Ironbridge World Heritage Site in Shropshire, England, the “Long Warehouse” was built in 1860 to store the inventory of the Coalbrookdale Iron Company. Built within an earthen bank, the three-story masonry, iron and timber framed building is approximately 30,000 square feet in size and is listed as “Schedule II” building by English Heritage.

The IGMT wishes to adapt the building into a new museum and research facility, which will expand the exhibit capabilities of the Museum of Iron. It will also accommodate a new material conservation research facility, a new library archive, and a new café.

The Long Warehouse is located adjacent to the historic Darby Furnace, where Abraham Darby I first used coal to manufacture cast iron products in 1709, which ushered in the Industrial Revolution. One mile west of Coalbrookdale is the iconic Iron Bridge; built by Abraham Darby III in 1779, it is the first ever structure constructed out of metal. The Ironbridge was listed on to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List in 1983 as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

In this design studio, students will learn the following ideas:

- Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- Architectural design with a historic landmark building
- New Structural Integration
- Building Programming and Life Safety Code Conformance