ARCH 571 - Design: Detail & Architectonics - Research Station
Assistant Prof. Mark Taylor

(Note: Arch 571 May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours)

This Design Studio will investigate multiple techniques and methodologies required to resolve the design and fabrication of a small-scale architectural construction.

The exploration and documentation of specific sites and places will be one of the catalysts to the design process. Understanding the site-specific and programmatic needs of those with whom we will collaborate will also be a point of reference in the design process. Interaction with collaborators outside the school of Architecture will be encouraged. Quantifying and qualifying temporary and permanent states of being, as they relate to the seasons of the year, food production cycles, and the creation and maintenance of architecture built on the rural/urban fringe, will be explored.

By the end of the semester a number of critical assemblies will have been constructed as models, in digital form and at full scale. Renderings will be required to represent how a specific detail will inform the realization of a building measuring approximately 150 sq/ft. This will be known as the Research Station Prototype.

While small in scale the full scale mock ups will aim to address critical connection details that can be applied to structures of a larger scale. Finding optimum solutions that draw modularity and functionality together in an aesthetic that delights will be one of the aims of the investigations undertaken.

Construction will be constrained by limited funds, an aspect of the design that should be seen as both a challenge and an opportunity to draw on underutilized resources, whether they are the rays of the sun or rigid foam off-cuts. As part of the final submission for the studio an accurate account of resources used, acquired, or required will be needed. In addition an account of the time investment in the research will also be submitted to help estimate future construction activities related to the studio.