Note: This is the first in a potential series of studios to be offered in the School's new Performance Program Area which will link a design studio with an advanced technical course.

In this case, the current studio will be taught jointly with ARCH 556: Advanced Structural Planning.

ARCH 573 Course Description
Spring 2014
Studio Instructor: Scott Murray

ARCH 573 Course Catalog Description
Design studio investigations of buildings and systems focusing on structure, enclosure, technology and performance. Integration of building materials, components and systems and their impact on the design, construction, and sustainability of buildings. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Architecture.

Introduction
This studio will be focused on how two primary architectural elements—structure and skin—can work together to create phenomenal experiences of space and light in a high-performance public building. Specifically, we will be designing long-span structural systems to shape space, integrated with custom enclosure systems that modulate natural light, in the creation of a new aquatic center on an urban site in New York City. The goal of this work is to develop design proposals that are both technologically and conceptually rigorous, and to define what this conception of "elemental architecture" might produce.

*Image above: London Olympic Aquatic Center under construction (source: http://www.detail-online.com)


Studio Project
Following initial research and analysis of site, program, and precedents, students in this studio will work on one semester-long design project: the new East River Aquatic Center (ERAC), sited along the East River in Brooklyn, New York. Students will work on this project in teams of two in order to enable a high level of depth and detail in the projects and to develop collaboration skills.

The ERAC will be a 70,000 square-foot training and competition facility suitable for hosting the Swimming & Diving World Championships. The program includes one Olympic-sized swimming pool (25x50 m), one diving pool (20x25 m), and one short-course training pool (25x25 m), as well as spectator amenities, administrative space, support functions, and adjacent park space. The project will require structural spans in the range of 150 to 400 feet and will be designed using steel as the primary material. Another design objective will be to maximize the potential for natural lighting within the building while also addressing energy-saving priorities through innovative building-envelope design.
Link with Advanced Structural Planning
As noted above, this studio will be taught in conjunction with ARCH 556: Advanced Structural Planning, which is led by Prof. Marci S. Uihlein.

Students enrolled in ARCH 556 will also enroll in this studio, and the same project will be used in both classes. The structural system designed for the studio project will be further developed and analyzed in ARCH 556, allowing the work in each of the two classes to productively inform and advance the other.

Learning Objectives and Process
The studio will emphasize mastery of technical principles in combination with more intangible qualities such as spatial experience and the creation of unique architectural character, while also integrating comprehensive design principles of accessibility, life safety, and site design. Appropriate and inventive responses to climatic and site conditions will be sought.

The design process will be based on experimentation with structure, form, and enclosure, developed through iterative design proposals using large-scale, detailed physical and digital modeling techniques. Design teams will be expected to generate, document, and analyze multiple schemes with clear conceptual foundations before arriving at a final proposal for the project. This process will include regular desk critiques and informal in-class pin-ups, in addition to the formal midterm and final reviews. Final projects will be presented in multiple media: detailed plans and sections, digital 3D modeling, physical models at a range of scales, and diagrams and details of structure and enclosure systems.
Faculty Bios

Scott Murray, Studio Instructor
Scott is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and a licensed architect. His professional background includes working as a façade-design consultant with the firm of Heintges Associates in New York. He is the author of two books on building-envelope design.
http://www.arch.illinois.edu/faculty/scott-murray

Marci S. Uihlein, Structural Consultant and Instructor of ARCH 556: Advanced Structural Planning
Marci is an Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture and a licensed professional engineer with a graduate degree in architecture. Her professional background includes working at Arup in their San Francisco and Los Angeles offices. She was recently awarded the Building Technology Educators’ Society (BTES) Emerging Faculty Award.
http://www.arch.illinois.edu/faculty/marci-s-uihlein-pe