Connecting Modes and Scales Experience-SPRING 12 - STALLMEYER

“Eventually everything connects - people, ideas, objects.” Charles Eames

This studio will explore the connections between people, ideas and objects. We will seek ways to connect designer to concept, user to place, object to experience, and human scale to macro scale. Our vehicle for these explorations will be the Mississippi Flyway, one of the principle migration routes for birds in North America. It connects the Arctic coast of Alaska in the north with Patagonia in the south. Over 40% of all waterfowl and shore birds found in the United States use this migration route each year. This natural structure passes imperceptibly over and through much of Illinois, occasionally alighting on the ground. We will seek ways to make present and enhance the human experience of this structure through the objects we design.

We will work at the scale of the body, explore the ideas that drive our production of objects, and experiment with the materiality of objects, all the while interrogating the relationship of these objects and ideas to larger structures and modes of experience. We will observe and record, discuss and write, conceive and make. Reading, writing and discussing will be an integral part of this studio as preparatory acts to conceiving and making. We will be integrating digital tools in the design process. Each student will have access to a Wacom sketch tablet and various software packages. We will explore the potential of these tools to enhance the design process from ideation to integrated solution. Hand drawing within this digital environment will be a key component the studio. Site models for project 4 will be produced using the CNC facilities of the school.

PROJECTS

We will engage four projects that will build on each other through increasing awareness of human spatial experience through multiple sensory inputs and a growing knowledge of materiality. Projects are of increasing scale and complexity. Students will work individually on each project. Project durations and weights are as noted. There will be a site visit at the beginning of the semester and another for project 4 that will include an optional overnight at the Sand Ridge State Forest.

Project ONE (2 Weeks) 15% (Individual) How/Why people Sit-Ideas about the body in space-An Object for Sitting

This object will be small scale. The object to be designed must be easily carried by those wishing to use it “in the field” as a means to position themselves in the landscape. Students will be expected to fabricate the object at full scale in the actual materials they envision. Students will be expected to produce several design iterations in sketches and scale models before embarking on final fabrication.

Project TWO (3 Weeks) 15% What people hear-Ideas About the auditory-An Object for Hearing

This object will be approximately 50-100 square feet in size. It will attempt to engage and enhance the aural aspects of experience. It will be designed to accommodate the object for sitting from Project ONE. It will be sited in the 6,200-acre landscape of the Chatauqua National Wildlife Refuge near Havana, Illinois. Particular attention will be paid to the ways that the building touches the ground and the ways it meets the sky. Students will be expected to produce several design iterations (not less than 5) in sketches and scale models. Students will be expected to produce a full set of architectural drawings including renderings, diagrams, plans, sections and elevations as well as a detailed model at an appropriate scale. Given the small scale it is expected that drawings will be produced at not less than 1” = 1’. Detail drawings may be required at full scale or half scale. An integration of conceptual and technical thinking will be required.

Project THREE (3 weeks) 20% How/Why people view-Ideas about the visual-An Object for Viewing

This object will be approximately 50-100 square feet in size. It will attempt to engage and enhance the visual aspects of experience. It will be designed to accommodate the object for sitting from Project ONE, students will have the option to accommodate up to 5 objects from Project ONE thus a variety of scales will be possible. The object will be sited in the 6,200-acre landscape of the Chatauqua National Wildlife Refuge near Havana, Illinois. Students will be expected to produce several design iterations in sketches and scale models. Students will be expected to produce a full set of architectural drawings including renderings, diagrams, plans, sections and elevations as well as a detailed model at an appropriate scale. Given the small scale it is expected that drawings will be produced at not less than 1” = 1’. Detail drawings may be required at full scale or half scale. An integration of conceptual and technical thinking will be required.

Project FOUR (8 weeks) 50% What people know-Ideas about ontology and epistemology-An Object for Knowing

This object will be approximately 15000 -20000 square feet in size. It will attempt to engage and enhance all aspects of the site experience. Programatically the object will serve as an interpretive center for the NWR. The object will be sited in the 6,200-acre landscape of the Chatauqua National Wildlife Refuge near Havana, Illinois. Students will be expected to produce a full set of architectural drawings including renderings, diagrams, plans, sections and elevations as well as a detailed model at an appropriate scale and a massing model at a scale appropriate to the site. The site will be given to students although there will be room for interpretation. Students will be expected to produce several design iterations in sketches and scale models. Given the small scale it is expected that drawings will be produced at not less than 1/8” = 1’. Particular attention will be paid to the ways that the building touches the ground and the ways it meets the sky. Detail drawings of these conditions may be required at up to 1”=6”. An integration of conceptual and technical thinking will be required.