THIRTY-TWO ITERATIONS

Deconstructing a hundred year old grain elevator with cribbed bin construction, analyzing it’s parts and their tectonic relationships, becomes a starting point for form generation applied to new designs at many scales, with varying program, using four basic materials - wood, concrete, steel and glass.

Instructor: Dr. Vidar Lerum
Class meets: MWF 1PM-5PM
Credits: 6 hours
Max enrollment: 15 students

“My most important journey was perhaps into the past, in the confrontation with the Middle Age, when I built a museum among the ruins of the Bishop’s Fortress at Hamar. I realized, when working out this project, that only by manifestation of the present, you can make the past speak. If you try to run after it, you will never reach it.”

From Sverre Fehn’s acceptance speech at the Pritzker Prize ceremony, 1997.

catalog description
ARCH 573 Technology & Performance
Design 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 and architectural environments at a wide range of scales.

course description
With a focus on energy, materiality, and tectonic expression, students will explore the conditions and potential for environmentally responsible building designs that can make constructed contributions to man-made landscapes. Students will use a deconstructed one hundred year old grain elevator as inspiration and as a datum to reference designs of new objects and artifacts. The method is one of exploration through multiple iterations within a framework of four consecutive studio projects. Project one (site) and three (precedence) are group projects lasting two weeks each, with four competing teams. Project two (pods) and four (museum) are individual projects lasting 4-5 weeks each. Master plan and site to be developed at an urban scale as a linear development along rail lines. Each student will then design four pods, each at about 5,000 sq ft of gross floor area. The final project (also individual) requires the skills to create a composition of the four pods integrated with additional program elements into a 40,000 sq ft museum. Energy performance will be analyzed using a direct computational link established between an energy modeling program and digital three-dimensional models. Each student shall construct 3-4 physical models (tectonic detail, pod, museum, site).

precedence
Sverre Fehn; Hedmarksutstillingen på Domkirkeodden, Hamar, Norway.

texts
Fjeld, P. O., Sverre Fehn: The Pattern of Thoughts, Monacelli, 2009.