Rapidly growing dependence among artists and critical practitioners in the innovative use of design_fabrication, are the next great influence for architecture. Looking back to the origins of architect as master builder, the role of production of architecture in the age of digital reproduction, merges the digital with analogue mastery. The Peoples Republic of China is crucial for this as is due to their production of the ready-made architectural products awaiting reconfiguration and deployment through flat pack strategies. This seminar explores in depth communicating and reflecting the processes of the past five years of design_fabrication outcomes at the University of Illinois authored by Erik Hemingway initiated to influence the discourse of architecture’s production from static building to dynamic manufacturing evolution.
Organized into two phases, students will study the design_fabrication outcome prototype face[GUARD], the competition winning open category for the 2009/2010 Hong Kong & Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture to understand the extreme constraints and skillful craft in detailing within a rapid prototyping phase. Subsequently, the [LIGHT]house, [see above drawings], designed in 2008 and conceptually prototyped will be rapidly built with materials provided by instructor and subsequently disassembled within a short time frame. Students will work in teams, documenting inter-connective observations in graphic studies based on standard presentation requirements with existing documentation provided by instructor and new video and photography of the manufacturing/flat-pack procedure will evolve from this phase. The final outcome will be the [LIGHT]house built work compiled in presentation form illustrating design_fabrication processes.