

College of the Canyons

Arch 120 - Elements of Architecture Design

Fall 2010

INSTRUCTOR: Joe Ramirez RA

E-mail: dmrjr0324@sbcglobal.net

SYLLABUS

Introductions

Instructor background:

California Licensed Architect – License No. C-26270

Bachelor of Science – Architecture, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 1980

Associate of Science Degree – Drafting, Barstow Community College 1975

Continuing mentor and career speaker since 1983

Experience Highlights

- Over 35 years experience in design and construction drawings and related documentation. Projects include education facilities, mid and high-rise commercial office buildings, health care facilities, multi-use retail facilities, multi-family residential design, and public work projects.
- Experienced in Building Code Review, ADA, processing design documents through Government Agency Reviews, and coordinating projects as owner's representative between consulting engineers, and general building contractors.
- Building Inspector – Constructability and Architectural Finishes on major transportation and health care projects.
- Mentor and Career Speaker to elementary, middle school and high school students. Promoting education and making aware of numerous careers within the architectural field.

Design Introduction

Students: Students will discuss their back ground and overall student goals in our first meeting.

Design professions include: Architects, interior designers, structural, mechanical, electrical, civil, landscape, cabinetry, acoustical, and trades. Design is not a finite solution to any one problem. There are many solutions to the same problem. Solutions are based on education, creativity, personal experiences, user's needs, funding, consultant coordination and codes.

Before construction can begin you need to understand the sequence and distribution of information to your consultants during the design phase. Consulting with your team members early in the design phase will save you time and \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$!

In a successful project responsibility is shared between the client and the Design Team. In any project there is information being distributed from beginning to end. Communication and a well executed set of drawings will take experience, cooperation, coordination and understanding the building sequence.

This class will explore and expand basic shapes in 2D and 3D (models). Architectural terms will be handed out. Sketching will be required and done in and out of class. This class is a hands on and learn by doing principles. Model making will be a large part of the design process. Please note that any design process takes time, so be aware of your time. Time management should be a factor in any design class. Think of this design class as an architectural office and you are one of the team members. As an employee you are expected to arrive on time and deliver projects when they are due. This work ethic will prepare you for challenges in a real office. We all have different backgrounds and experiences. We need to listen, interact, and be open to ideas. We must feed our ambition with knowledge and effort.

Factors that will be discussed include the following:

- Knowing the clients needs
- Evaluating the proposed site
- Introduction to sustainable design
- Understanding the relationship between living/working spaces (problem solving)
- Exploring the details to spaces
- Understanding workable shapes, volumes, etc.
- Understanding basic structural components
- Enhancing the living or working space
- Pedestrian flow
- Presentation include 2D (drawings) and 3D drawings (models)

Student Learning Objective:

Develop and present 2-D and 3-D architectural design solutions, based on principles and elements of design, government regulations, sustainable solutions, and site analysis.

Demonstration of understanding:

Each student will have opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of design through oral presentations, sketches, presentation drawings and models. Submittals will be present in 2-D and 3-D formats. Your solutions will not have a dollar budget factor therefore be as creative as possible.

To aid you recording your work I will photograph your projects on the submittal dates. The photos will be placed on my website. Of course you may want to take your own photos to include in your portfolio.

Student Participation:

Participation is an important part of this course. Students are encouraged to ask questions and interact with other students. If possible interact with contractors, building department officials, engineers, manufacture representatives, and architects. Personal experience and exposure to a variety of building types is essential to your education. In order to expand your resources we encourage you to visit as many building sites (existing and new) as possible.

Students will maintain a three ring binder for lecture notes, sketches, lettering exercises, and handouts. Keep in mind that your best sketches and lettering should be a part of your portfolio. I will be asking to review this binder.

Students will be giving oral presentations through out the semester. Think of the oral presentation as a group discussion. When oral presentations are given, comments will be constructive and all students are encouraged to participate. We can all learn from each other.

Drafting skills learned here will be beneficial for future classes. There will be lettering and sketching assignments through out the semester. Students are urged to sign up for labs, library and the TLC lab. Students are responsible to read all handouts. There will be take home quizzes. If there are any questions you can e-mail me or make arrangements to talk to me.

Bring all necessary materials and tools to class! This is your responsibility

Attendance and Drop policy: (Remember this is an 8 week session). Class attendance is mandatory especially when assignments may change during class sessions. Students should strive to always be on time because of the positive character quality it reinforces. It is your responsibility to coordinate your efforts. Missing a class session due to a job will NOT be an acceptable excuse.

Please contact me a head of time by e-mail when missing class is unavoidable. It is the student's responsibility to make up work missed due to any unavoidable absences. See me to make arrangements. I encourage you to get to know a classmate who can share notes with you when necessary. It is NOT the instructor's responsibility to re-teach the lesson due to tardiness or missed classes.

If you decide to drop this class please be responsible and drop the course by the drop date. Students who do not drop by the drop date will receive a failing grade.

It is at the discretion of the instructor to drop the student due to excessive tardiness, and or three or more unexcused absences. Students who are tardy for class or leave class early without notifying the instructor will be marked tardy. Arriving late to class three times will equal one absence and three absences qualifies student to be dropped from the class. Arriving late and leaving early from class is just rude and unprofessional and I will bring it to your attention, so don't do it! If there is a need to leave early be professional and notify me.

Remember this is an 8 week session so time is limited. One class meeting is like meeting twice a week in a regular semester. So if you miss on day it is like missing a week.

In the event that I am sick I will do my best to notify you all by e-mail. So please check your e-mail prior to class. If I am absence, your assignment due on our next meeting is a two page report on one of the homes designed by Greene & Greene.

Course Schedule:

This syllabus is subject to change.

Lettering / Sketches:

ALL lettering and sketching assignments shall be by hand and submitted at the beginning of each class meeting. Please punch 3 holes on the long side. These assignments will be on 8 ½ x 11 tracing paper. Provide a ½ inch boarder all around the sheet. Place your name and date at the bottom right hand corner.

Lettering assignments will be at 1/8" spacing. Provide guide lines for your lettering. Use 2H pencils for your lettering assignments. Use a straight edge to draw all of your vertical lines. A demonstration of this method will be shown in class.

Sketching assignments will all be free hand. Time yourself to 20 minutes a sketch.

Projects:

There will be a total of five models. They will provide you skills, techniques and confidence to see design in a different perspective. Design is a process of problem solving and you will usually end up with more questions. You need to rely on all of your senses and experiences in searching for solutions. The first set of projects will be very basic and is meant to help you explore shapes, volumes, and model techniques.

The last three projects will keep you very busy. Here you will design interior and exterior spaces. Your design will show your understanding of the user's space, structure, sustainability, pedestrian flow, etc. The 'Tree Platform' will be a team effort. I have to stress that in this team project it is so important to share responsibility. This project is as good as is the collective efforts from each member. Always work on your social skills but especially on this team project. On this team project you want to focus on brain storming, compromise, refine, and implement.

The last two projects will be displayed for everyone to view. The 'Tree Platform' (team project) and 'The Children's Exploration Center' will be shown where the staff and students will be able to interact with the designers. Locations will be announced later in the semester.

I always see new techniques in model making. So pay close attention to materials being used, model making techniques, and time management. I encourage you all to walk around and learn from one another. Being shy in this class will only keep you from expanding your talents so take a step forward and ask questions.

Grading:

Please note: Grades are directly related to content, layout, completeness, neatness, coordination, oral presentation, clarity, communication, class participation, completed assignments and on time submittals. As a reminder the lettering and sketches done throughout this session will be components to a successful presentation. The lettering and sketching assignments will be reviewed and used when grading is on the border line.

ALL SUBMITTALS WILL BE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. Late submittals will be given partial credit. For every passing day two points will be removed from the total possible points.

There will be no late submittals accepted for the 'Tree Platform' (team project) and 'The Children's Exploration Center'. They will be assembled and submitted at the beginning of the class period.

Please manage your time wisely. Remember that Design can be an endless process. So don't leave an assignment until the last minute.

Grading will be based on a 100 points scale divided as follows:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 59 and below

Supplies:

Students should be aware of **materials costs** related to completing assignments. Studio classes require the use of drafting tools, and blue printing (final submittal). Supplies may cost as much as several hundred dollars for beginning students who have NO supplies or tools from previous classes. See supply list.

Text:

Reference Text: Architecture - Form, Space, and Order by Francis D.k.Ching

Food and drinks:

College policy dictates that no food and or beverages will be permitted in the class. Please eat before class or in the hallway during break. There will be no smoking or chewing tobacco. You may bring in capped bottles and keep under your desk. You must discard empty bottles.

Seat assignments:

The table you are seating in will be your assigned seat. If you would like to find another table ask a classmate to trade with you. By the end of class the table you are seating in will be your assigned seat.

Classroom Stewardship:

Please clean your work surface before and after working on projects. Any cutting must be done on a cutting board. Board surfaces must be protected with cardboard when coloring or painting. Any spray painting must be done at home or outside and away from any building or sidewalks.

As our projects become more complex our space will become very small so I ask all of you to be aware of your tools and your neighbors working spaces.

E-mail accounts:

If e-mail is unavailable to you off campus please make an appointment with the library. They will help you set up a free e-mail account.

E-mail is the best way to contact me. If your e-mail address is different from the class roster please revise your address with administration.

Cell phones & class computers:

ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING OR CELL PHONE WILL BE USED IN CLASS. iPods may be used when working on models in class. Phones are expected to be silenced and put away during

class. The class computers are not to be used to check your e-mail during class session. The computers will be used later in the semester but for now the computer should be turned off. Please check your personal e-mail before or after class.

Holidays:

Holidays will be observed as per the college calendar.

Over view:

- Submittals will include lettering, sketches, and model presentations.
- Handouts and chapter reading will be issued (TBD).
- Supplies – see Supply List.
- Code examples will be discussed throughout the semester.
- Encourage visiting construction sites and numerous building types.
- Always bring tools, supplies as needed, binder and all sheets to class. Purchase a tube to carry your drawings.
- Date all assignments and place your name on the sheets / work.
- Sketching is required and will be completed in and outside of class. Speed is important so 20 min. per sketch is encouraged. Sketch on an 8-1/2 x 11 tracing paper. Two drawings per week are encouraged. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. We will be displaying them in class for comments. You can use wooden blocks to sketch. As you progress sketch store fronts located at the mall.
- Use your sketches and photographs of your work in your portfolio.
- Lettering assignments will be completed outside of class. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Please no late submittals! I know lettering is boring but it will be a huge benefit later.
- Provide a 3-ring binder for this class to keep handouts, syllabus, notes, lettering and sketching exercises. Suggest that you use sheet protectors for your sketches.
- You are encouraged to collect architectural magazine articles.
- Ask questions, observe your surroundings, learn from others, be creative, and have some fun.
- Photo's will be taken of your projects and placed on my site for your record/viewing. Some of these photos will be used by this department to promote this class.