

DESIGNING THE DETAIL / DETAILING THE DESIGN

4050/6050

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID HARRISON - david.harrison@perkinswill.com

3 credit hours. Class time: Thurs 5:30-8:00pm online / UNCC City Center (uptown)



Architecture is complex and difficult, as much a state of mind as an assembly of parts, but it is mainly about materials and the way they are put together. Images with the illusion of great accuracy and completeness can be generated almost as soon as they are imagined, but architecture is developed slowly, laboriously, through a continuing process of working back and forth from concept to detail, with increasing specificity and precision

Dauids, René. Details in Contemporary Architecture.

1.0 PREMISE

When studying architectural designs, often we find that the buildings that are celebrated are ones where the detailing is integral to the design itself. In other words, design and detailing have a reciprocal relationship in which one continually informs the other. This class endeavors to explore the techniques and processes behind meaningful details.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to give students a clearer understanding of the principals associated with making the detailing of a building work in harmony with the overall design intent. By understanding what questions to ask, and what to solve for, the goal of the course is for students to begin to develop a mindset that will help them in the designing details that enhance their projects.

The class will utilize real world examples as a means of understanding the impact and implications of designing a well-executed detail. Throughout the semester, students will explore the class concepts with their own studio projects as a way of practicing and understanding how detailing with various engineering concepts and materials can play a key role in design.

3.0 METHOD

The semester will be primarily organized around a final objective of the students creating a series of details as part of the student's studio project. The first series of class meetings will focus on studying and understanding building technology to increase the students' awareness of the critical thinking behind a well-executed detail.

Some key class discussion topics/activities are:

1. Techniques/processes for thinking about building technology, with the main focus on envelope technology.
2. In depth discussions of case study projects where detailing plays an important role in understanding the overall design.
3. The use of Revit tools and techniques either as a part of the students work, or from the instructor's work, to study and manipulate the bringing together of various materials into a well-crafted detail.
4. City walks of downtown Charlotte to discuss/sketch the students' thoughts on the built environment.

4.0 RESOURCES

Subject to change

1. **Details in Contemporary Architecture**, Christine Killory and Renee Davids
2. **Details, Technology and Form**, Christine Killory
3. **Studies in Tectonic Culture**, Kenneth Frampton
4. **Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Complete Works, Vol 4**, Peter Buchanan

5.0 EVALUATION

There will be monthly assignments ranging from drawings to case studies. Success in this course will be determined by the level of one's engagement in the assignments throughout the semester. Other factors will include:

1. The level of intensity, enthusiasm and focus exhibited in the work
2. The quality and craft of the work
3. The timely resolution and completion of the work
4. Attendance, preparedness and participation during in-class discussions