Embassy in Budapest

Vertical studios are meant to provide students with a setting and context to synthesize the discrete architectural training they have received in their first two years. These studios are also a place for students to begin developing their individual approaches to design and think through the values and character that they can bring to their designs.

The framing of the studio is straightforward: students will develop a design in response to a program and site. The program, an extension to the US embassy in Budapest, has been selected to offer specific challenges—handling complex spatial requirements, creating a visual expression that has specific representational qualities, balancing conflicting demands on both spatial organization and visual character, and understanding an unfamiliar culture. It is also intended to draw specific attention to issues of boundary and memory in line with the vertical studio themes of this year. These issues are forbidding enough to challenge even practiced professionals (above) but grappling with them will help students understand how architecture works within a broader cultural realm.

Schedule and procedure
The first three weeks will be devoted to preparation work and in understanding the site and program. The design work will take the next seven weeks, and the final two weeks will be devoted to developing the presentational logic and drawings. The designs will be developed individually, but some of the preparatory work will involve teams.

Guest Critics
Miklós Oroszlány is a studio critic in the faculty of architecture at the Budapest Institute of Technology and Economics and runs a design and research practice in Budapest.
Anna Losonczi is a post-doctoral fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, conducting research on affective psychology and visual perception in architectural settings.