



ARCH 4803/8803

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE: DESIGN RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

Hollengreen
Spring 2017

Class Meetings: T/TH, 3:00-4:30

Based on an undergraduate thesis preparation class I taught in the past, I am offering this course to help students develop a design research profile and hone their written, verbal, graphic, and three-dimensional articulation of design ideas. This would be a useful class for any student hoping to do a thesis (or just develop a thesis sensibility), wishing to apply to top firms or graduate schools, or simply looking to maximize control of their own learning and design work.

Things to ponder:

- Do you want to develop a clearer vector for your own research contribution within a design brief constructed by a crit or a client?
- Do you want to learn how to identify challenges and gaps in existing research, so that you can define an opening for your own work?
- Do you want to feel more confident communicating your research findings and translating them to your design work?
- Do you want to develop an ability to exert the authority that comes from solid expertise in something?
- Do you want to hone expression of a personal design sensibility that will make you stand out from other students, grad school applicants, or job seekers?
- Do you want to give design criticism with greater authority and receive it with greater equanimity?
- Do you want to construct mechanisms for assessing and developing your design ideas?
- Do you want to take charge of your studio reviews?
- Do you want to work closely with student peers to foster a design community that is open, dynamic, challenging, and mutually beneficial?
- Do you want to learn how to manage and respond to different, sometimes contradictory, advice from your design crits?

If you are frustrated by a gap between your design intentions and your ability to communicate them, by a lack of dialogue about design among your peers, or by lack of a sense of personal “ownership” of your learning in studio and other classes, this class may be for you. If you are excited to work closely and critically with a small group of other students, this class may be for you. If you want to exert more control over your design education, this class may be for you.

The class will build on your current studio work as well as your body of past design work to formulate a coherent kind of self-fashioning. Over the course of the semester, you will examine how research is constituted in different areas of study (e.g., human behavior, digital design and fabrication, energy performance, natural or built systems, historical contexts), perform peer critiques, engage in an iterative process of writing and graphic presentation of your ideas, practice giving presentations, and share in the reciprocal development of architectural tools and aspirations. Primarily intended for advanced undergraduates and master’s students, the course may nevertheless be open to sophomores upon permission of the instructor.

Questions? Please contact Laura Hollengreen at Laura.Hollengreen@gatech.edu.