

The Connell Workshop: The Art of Drawing

Lane M. Duncan, AIA, Senior Lecturer
School of Architecture, Ga. Tech

Abstract



Parrhasius Discussing Drawing with Socrates
charcoal on newsprint 5" x 8"

The ancient story of Parrhasius, the classic Greek painter, expounding on the virtues of drawing to Socrates, the classic Greek philosopher, is a timeless standard for critical thinking today. Parrhasius considered the ability of the artist to translate complex and often competing internal ideas onto paper to be the true measure of the artist's worth.

This workshop explores hand drawing - tone, line, gesture, composition, and the historic humanistic forces that shaped them. Investigations are divided into two general categories - perception, the way in which we see the world, and conception, the way in which we attempt to order the world.

Perception, focuses on still life drawing exercises, human figure life drawing, and the work of the Renaissance artists Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. These artists and architects were curious about the entire world around them, from Roman architectural ruins to the mechanics of a bird's flight. The aim of this workshop is to foster the same appreciation for the multitude of ideas that influence all that we do as architects. Guest lecturers from the arts and sciences participate in the research.

Conception, examines the role of geometry in architecture. Referencing the work of Robin Evans, the late British historian and scholar, projects examine the three principle geometries that he describes: Euclidean (haptic), Projective (object in space), and Metaphorical (symbolic). These studies examine a deeper understanding of the shaping of habitable human space, the unique quality that sets architecture apart from all other arts.