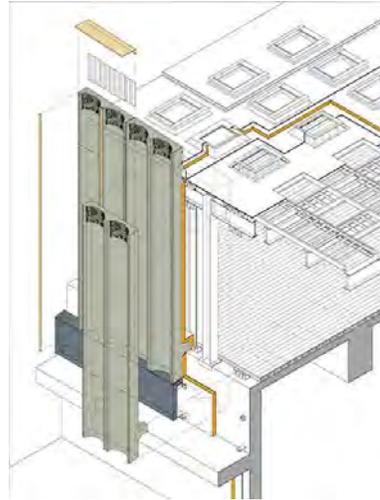




Studio Daniel Libeskind, Jewish Museum Berlin



Caruso St. John Architects, Nottingham Contemporary Museum

Course Description

The course looks at the building façade as a complex of architectural expression, technical problem-solving, and construction and fabrication. The “façade engineer” is a specialization that arose in the 1980’s and has gained importance as the demands of façade performance and cost effectiveness –not to say legal and financial risk-avoidance, has risen on projects large and small. While engineering aspects will be discussed, the course is not highly technical, and not computationally based. It is designed for the architecture student who wants to explore façade design in greater depth and who wants to improve the quality and depth of their own research and/or design studio projects.

Tectonics –or “the art of the joint”, as historian/critic Kenneth Frampton has defined it, will be emphasized in the study of building precedents and façade case studies from around the world. The over-arching question will be: how are the attributes of *tectonics*, which have to do with materials assembled in ways *that signify* -to be applied to contemporary facades? If “God is in the details”, as the saying goes, then what details are the most significant? What aspects of façade details, which involve a host of constraints and design issues driven by resisting and accommodating natural forces, construction materials and methods, codes and costs, are most promising for tectonic expression?

Course Organization

The course is organized into 2 week MODULES for the first 10 weeks (up to the Spring Break March 19-23).

Each of the modules has several topics organized around a theme.

Module 1: History, Concepts, Issues of Cladding Design

Module 2: Energy and Fire Codes

Module 3: Dynamic Facades

Module 4: Assembly and Structure

Module 5: Case Studies

The class periods will alternate between lectures and discussions of readings and or working sessions for student presentations.

Course Requirements

The deliverables for the course are:

- (1 a presentation to the class comparing two building façades in terms of design and fabrication/assembly,
- (2 a physical model of a building façade for inclusion in a class exhibition at the end of year show.