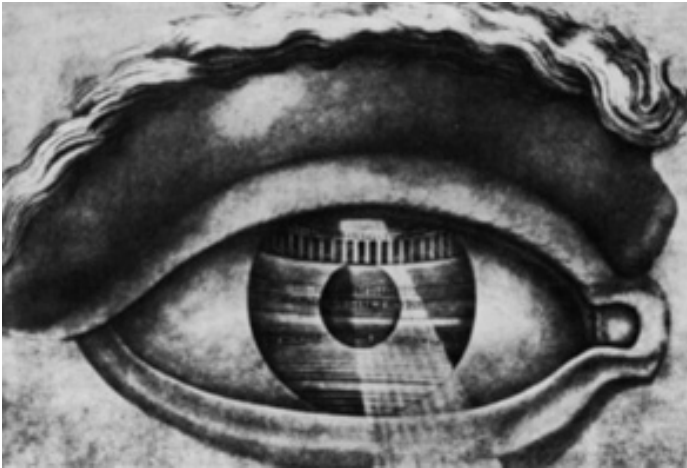


## Advanced Design Studio: Questioning the Spectacular, A phenomenological architecture



Claude-Nicholas Ledoux Eye Reflecting the Interior of the Theater of Besancon

*"The subconscious is ceaselessly murmuring, and it is by listening to these murmurs that one hears the truth."*

Gaston Bachelard

In a design world that is becoming increasingly ocular centric, celebrating the spectacle and the spectacular, this studio requires a fundamental understanding; through empirical study, theoretical readings, and design, the characteristics of space and form as experienced through all the senses. With its origins in the 1970's phenomenology is a philosophical design ideology based on the physical experience of buildings, their materials, sensory properties and relationship to the spirit of the place; "genius loci".

### **STATEMENT:**

Through the design of a school for low vision children, this studio will explore:

- Critical writing around the commodification and spectacle in architecture
- Broad understanding of philosophical thinking of phenomenology
- Human senses and our perception of environment and built structures
- Holistic understanding of the genius loci and building's relationship to this place.
- Full integration of Building Systems: reinforcing program, conceptual and functional ideas.
- Physical representation of sensual qualities of a place

### **STUDIO OVERVIEW:**

- Charette #1: The Visual World
- Charette #2: The Auditory World
- DNC: Dialog City
- Charette #3: Tactile | Olfactory | Taste
- Charette #4: Time | Memory | Scale
- Charette #5: Precedent Studies
- Site Visit: Anchor Center for Blind Children
- Charette #6: Site Analysis
- Design of a school for low vision children

Documentation of all charettes and empirical studies will need to be professional and submitted both as 8-1/2x11 prints and digital copies

### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

- "The Eyes of the Skin" Juhani Pallasmaa
- "The Image of the City" Kevin Lynch
- "Questions of Perception, Phenomenology of Architecture" Steven Holl, Juhani Pallasmaa, Alberto Perez-Gomez
- "Phenomenology of Perception" Merleau-Ponty
- "Thinking Architecture" Peter Zumthor
- "Atmospheres" Peter Zumthor
- "The Poetics of Space" Gaston Bachelard
- "Commodification and Spectacle in Architecture" Harvard Design Magazine Reader

In-class articles to be distributed including in part:

- "Building Dwelling Thinking" Martin Heidegger
- "The Phenomenon of Place" Christian Norberg-Shulz
- "Concerning the Spiritual in Art" Kandinsky
- "The Lure of the Local, Senses of Place in a Multi-centered Society" Lucy Lippard

Suggested References:

- Precedents in Architecture, Clark
- Art and Visual Perception, A Psychology of the Visual Eye, Rudolf Arnheim
- "Theory of Colours" John Wolfgang van Goethe
- "Vision and Art" Margaret Livingstone

Additional, General Interest

- "The Story of My Life" Helen Keller
- "Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See: My Story" Erik Weihenmayer
- "Sightless in a Sighted World," by Ved Mehta

### **REQUIRED LECTURES:**

#### **Chirsto Lecture (Enhancing the spirit of a place?)**

### **DESCRIPTIONS:**

ARCH 6170, Advanced Design Studio: Students enter the advanced design studio after successfully completing the four core design studios and comprehensive studios. The studio focuses on integrated building and site design, and representation. The studio will integrate experiential and philosophical ideas of a holistic experience of our built environment.

### **ARCH 6171. Design Seminar IV:**

This seminar supports fuller discussion of the key themes and concepts around the ideas of writings of phenomenology in built environment.

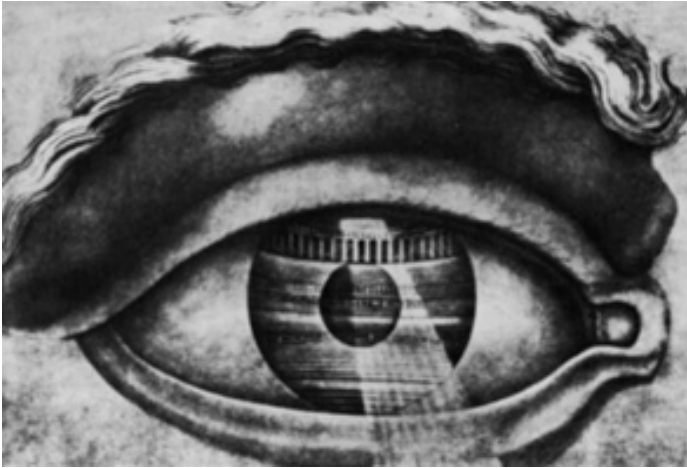
### **OBJECTIVES:**

The course will focus on the following NAAB criteria:

#### **Comprehensive design including building systems integration:**

Ability to assess, select, and integrate structural systems, environmental systems, life-safety systems, building envelope systems into the building. Ability to assess, select, configure, and detail as an integral part of the design, appropriate combinations of building materials, components, and assemblies to satisfy the requirements of building programs.

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### **EVALUATION:**

Evaluation will be holistic including speaking, writing, graphic and research skills (see attached grading criteria and evaluation sheet)

### **Research skills:**

Ability to employ basic methods of data collection and analysis to inform all aspects of the programming and design process.

### **Collaborative Skills:**

Ability to identify and assume divergent roles that maximize individual talents, and to cooperate with other students when working as members of a design team and in other settings.

### **Technical Documentation:**

Ability to make technically precise descriptions and documentation of a proposed design for purposes of review and construction.

### **Rigor | Exploration:**

The first half the studio, organized as a laboratory, will encourage original thought and experimentation.

Evaluations will be provided at the end of charettes.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 177 Arts Building, 303-556-3450, TTY 303-556-4766, FAX 303-556-2074. DRS requires students to provide current and adequate documentation of their disabilities. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student's request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. DRS will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved. Once you provide me with a copy of DRS's letter, I will be happy to provide those accommodations DRS has approved.

### **Absences and Assignments**

Except for documented health or disability reasons, excuses for absences or assignment not submitted will not be accepted. Documentation of disability or health related issues must be provided. One absence will be allowed before an academic penalty of one half grade reduction is imposed. Required assignments that are turned in late will receive one half grade reduction for every day they are late. Any student who misses quizzes and/or examinations or fails to turn in homework and/or papers will receive either a zero (0) or an F for the work missed.

### **Plagiarism**

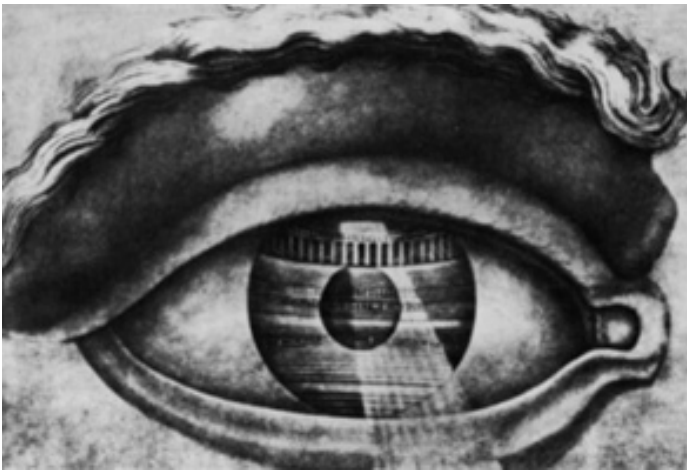
Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person's work into yours requires appropriate identifications and acknowledgement. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted: word-for-word copying of another person's ideas or words; the "mosaic" (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another's work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing sources); submission of another's work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes.

### **Classroom Decorum**

The following ground rules apply to all students and are designed to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning for all students:

1. Pagers, beepers, cellular telephones, and handheld internet devices must be deactivated before class begins and remain deactivated throughout the entire class period.
2. Students who engage in disruptive classroom behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Life for appropriate disciplinary action under the CU-Denver Code of Student Conduct and, when appropriate, to the Auraria Campus Police for investigation of possible criminal action. The Code of Student Conduct can be found on the CU-Denver website, under Office of Student Life and Student Activities.

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### SCHEDULE:

Course is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 - 5:30.

#### **Week One: *The Visual World***

August 12, 2008: Balloting | Set up Studio  
Discussion: The Spectacle of Beijing  
Review Class Policies  
Readings: "The Eyes of The Skin" Juhani Pallasmaa  
"The Geometry of Feeling" Juhani Pallasmaa (handout)  
Kandinsky (handout)  
"Phenomenology of Perception" Merleau Ponty  
August 14, 2008: The Visual World  
Desk Crits

#### **Week Two: *The Visual World***

August 19, 2008  
Readings: "Atmospheres" and "Thinking Architecture"  
Desk Crits  
August 21, 2008: Review: The Visual World  
Assign: The Auditory World  
Readings: "The Work of Architecture in the Age of Commodification" (selected readings)  
"Spaces Speak, Are You Listening?: Experiencing Aural Architecture"

#### **Week Three: *DNC***

August 26 and August 28, 2008:  
Dialog with the Public Realm: DNC Dialog City

#### **Week Four: *The Auditory World***

September 2, 2008: Desk Crits  
September 4, 2008: Review: The Auditory World  
Assign: Tactile | Olfactory | Taste

#### **Week Five: *Tactile | Olfactory | Taste***

September 9, 2008: Desk Crits  
September 11, 2008:  
Review: Tactile | Olfactory | Taste  
Assign: Time | Memory | Scale

#### **Week Six: *Time | Memory | Scale***

September 16, 2008: Desk Crits  
September 18, 2008:  
Review Time | Memory Scale  
Assign Precedent Studies and Site Analysis  
5:30 Christo Lecture

#### **Week Seven: *Precedent Studies***

September 23, 2008: Reading Day  
September 25, 2008: Visit to Anchor Center  
Readings: "The Phenomenon of Place" Norberg-Schulz  
"The Lure of the Local" Lucy Lippard  
"The Poetics of Space" Gaston Bachelard

#### **Week Eight: *Site Analysis: Understanding Genius Loci, Spirit of the place***

September 30, 2008  
Precedent Study Presentations  
Readings: "The Image of the City" Kevin Lynch  
October 1, 2008  
Discuss Site Analysis

#### **Week Nine: *Final Program***

October 7, 2008  
Site Analysis Presentations  
Assign Final Problem  
Readings: "Building Dwelling Thinking" Martin Heidegger  
"Heidegger's Thinking on Architecture" Norberg-Schulz  
"On Reading Heidegger" Kenneth Frampton (handout)  
October 9, 2008

#### **Week Ten**

October 14, 2008  
October 16, 2008

#### **Week Eleven**

October 21, 2008  
October 23, 2008:

#### **Week Twelve**

October 28, 2008:  
October 30, 2008: Mid Term Review

#### **Week Thirteen**

November 4, 2008: Desk Crits  
November 6, 2008: Desk Crits

#### **Week Fourteen**

November 11, 2008: Desk Crits  
November 13, 2008: Pin-up

#### **Week Fifteen**

November 18, 2008: Desk Crits  
November 20, 2008: Desk Crits

#### **Week Sixteen**

November 25, and 27 2008: No Class:

#### **December 1-5: Final Reviews**