

School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Master of Architecture Program
University of Calgary

ARCH 702 – Architecture Senior Research Studio

Winter 2023 (Full course)

(Mondays), Tuesdays, (Wednesdays), and Fridays, 14:00 - 18:00 hours.

Instructors: Philip Vandermeij (Coordinator), philip@spectacle-bureau.com

Rooms: TBD

Projective Futures: Royal Canadian Legion McGrane #28 in Lac La Biche

INTRODUCTION

The Senior Research Studio (potentially) occupies a hinge position between architectural studies and architectural practice. In this studio, because students have the opportunity to work with a real client on a real project, students will be investigating a pragmatic project within an academic environment. Because of this Venn diagram between theory and practice, in both the position of the studio within an architectural education as well as in the project that students will be undertaking, the approach of this studio necessitates the development of a way of designing that can straddle both worlds.

Today the title ‘Critical Architecture’ is applied to any building deemed to somehow stand out above the average architectural project. As with the term Brutalism, it is applied so widely and with so little precision that it becomes a meaningless platitude. Where the descriptor Critical Architecture is applied with rigor and accuracy, it is associated with a negation or reaction, originating from an exterior source, and delivered after the fact. But pessimism is old-fashioned, and Critical Architecture relies on an opposition between practice and theory that is not productive. As a recent adjustment to the lineage of Critical Architecture, and a potential way forward, students will investigate the approach of ‘Projective Architecture’ within this course.

PROJECT

Royal Canadian Legion McGrane #28 in Lac La Biche is planning the expansion of their facilities to include a larger event space and supporting functions. The existing facility is approximately 450m² in area, and includes an assemblage of two buildings. The first building is a historical trapper's cabin from 1913; the oldest building in Lac La Biche, it is currently used for storage, as a small museum, and rarely as event overflow. The other building is the main Legion clubhouse; a single level building above a basement, it includes the main hall (60m²), bar, washrooms, kitchen, office, lower hall, and storage. The Legion would like to add an event space for 150 people, incorporate barrier-free circulation, enhance the performance and comfort of the buildings, include support and games spaces, and provide all the support spaces necessary for these activities. In order to make space for the expansion, students also have to develop a strategy for the existing (but unprotected) historical building.



CACB

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course:

Primary Level: A1: Design Theories, Precedents, and Methods; A2: Design Skills; A3 Design Tools; A4: Program Analysis; A5: Site Context and Design; A8: Design Documentation.

Secondary Level: A6: Urban Design; B1: Critical Thinking and Communication; B3: Architectural Theory; C2: Materials; C3: Structural Systems, C4 Envelope Systems, C5 Environmental Systems.

Note: Students entering the program from other institutions are required to take the Workshop Skills course.

OBJECTIVES

Students will develop a conceptual / theoretical approach to making architecture, in relation to the topic of 'Projective Architecture'. As such, the project will explore architectural making as well as the relationship between architecture and larger contexts (political, economic, social, cultural, and logistic). This conceptual approach will guide the design of a mid-sized social club, including the programming, urban relationships and landscape design, architectural and technical systems, of this building and site.

TEACHING APPROACH

Students will work through the assignments, given at the outset of each phase of the course, with regular input from the instructor through desk crits, formal reviews, group discussions, presentations. The work will primarily be done independently, with some group work as required for site / context analysis and for the preparation, installation, and removal of the final exhibition. Since the project for the course involves a real client organization, the course will include two (number to be confirmed) trips to Lac La Biche, assumed to be two days per trip with an overnight stay at a hotel, in order to visit the facility, receive input, and present outcomes to the Legion.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, MEANS OF EVALUATION

Students will be expected to follow all assignments, to be present for studio on Tuesdays and Fridays (and as otherwise required by the instructor/schedule) and attend all lectures and reviews. Students will also be expected to read any assigned readings. Detailed project descriptions will be provided throughout the term by the various instructors. The following is the general breakdown of assignments:

SCHEDULE

Phase 1	Approach / Initial Design January 9 to February 3	20%
Phase 2	Design Advancement February 3 to Mar 10	30%
Term Break Alberta Family Day	February 19 to 25 February 20	no studio no classes / university closed
Phase 3	Final Design and Presentation Mar 10 to Final Presentation* (*first week of exams, date TBD)	40%
Block Week Good Friday Easter Monday End of Classes	March 13 to 17 April 7 April 10 April 12	no studio no classes / university closed no classes / university closed
Phase 4	Exhibition and Portfolio Assignment and Due Date TBD	10%

READINGS

Refer to project handouts by instructor.

SPECIAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Students will be required to complete each of the course assignments. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 30% or more they will fail the course.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when: (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work, (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author, (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or, (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION: All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY: Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. <https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/>

MEDIA AND RECORDING: University Calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>
Recording of lectures (other than audio recordings that are pre-arranged as part of an authorized accommodation) is not permitted. Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor or authorization from Student Accessibility Services. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

SPECIAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS: Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation. Instructors are required to list and describe approved optional and mandatory supplementary fees for courses. This can include possible costs incurred for special materials, equipment, services, or travel.

Technology requirements (D2L etc.): For example: In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection
- Student IT Resources

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS: Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:
<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor in advance to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review the recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar’s website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>