

Arch 580 Graphic Techniques for Architects

3 credits

Meeting time: 9 to 11:50am Friday

Room AUP 191

Office hours: by appointment

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COURSE INTENT

The purpose of this course is to study architectural graphics. Toward that end, we will go over plan, section, elevation, paraline, and perspective constructions. We will render a perspective or two first in pencil and then on the computer. We will use Sketchup as a modeling, rendering and animation tool. And we will sketch.

Architectural graphics is important both for the development /presentation of the imagined idea and for the production of construction documents. As practiced in the design studio, architectural graphics tends to emphasize drawings and sketches of the imagined idea, with descriptive and evocative qualities, over the constructional reality of dimension lines and technical documents. It's the graphics of imagined ideas that we will study in this class.

In general, architectural sketches and drawings done for this class will be critiqued in terms of visual graphics concepts such as value/shading, fields/texture, gesture and line, and the possibilities of graphic composition, including figure/field relationships, etc.

CLASS PROCESS

Over the course of the semester, we will work on one major project. This long-term course project involves constructing and rendering many different views of one house. The shorter projects are mostly sketching exercises.

Today, for the first assignment, we will review a list of four precedent houses. All of the houses are small and all of them are of high design quality. Every student in the class must sign up for one house on this list. It is this house that will be presented with a full range of architectural drawing types over the course of the next several weeks. For the first half of the semester, we will hand-draft plan, section, paraline and perspective views. After that, we will model and render the same house in Sketchup.

At the same time that we are developing the long-term house project, each week, we will also work on shorter sketch assignments. These will often relate to the topic we are working on with the house. Sketch exercises will be discussed and worked on during class as time permits.

REQUIREMENTS

- *SKETCHBOOK*. In this course a sketchbook is required. It should document drawings, diagrams, notations, etc as a graphic journal of your architectural experience. The format is variable and subject to your personal inclination. You must turn in your sketchbook at the end of the semester.