

2017-2018 Distinguished Professor

John Ronan FAIA
32311

Professor John Ronan

ACSA Distinguished Professor Submission

Sections of Supporting Material:

- 1. Architectural Practice**
- 2. Research/Writing**
- 3. Teaching Ability**

1. Architectural Practice:

Recognition in the Community and Profession

Professor John Ronan's architectural practice has had a major impact on both the Chicago community and the profession nationally. In recognition of his contributions, in 2014, he was elevated to a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor given for "exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society." Judging is rigorous and only 3% of AIA members have received this award.

In March 2017, Professor Ronan received the Architecture Award from The American Academy of Arts and Letters, an honor society of the country's leading architects, artists, composers and writers.

We highlight a few of Professor Ronan's most significant contributions to the built environment and provide links to view in more detail these specific projects. In addition, links are provided to the peer reviewed awards and national press.

PROJECTS

Poetry Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

<http://www.jrarch.com/poetry-foundation>

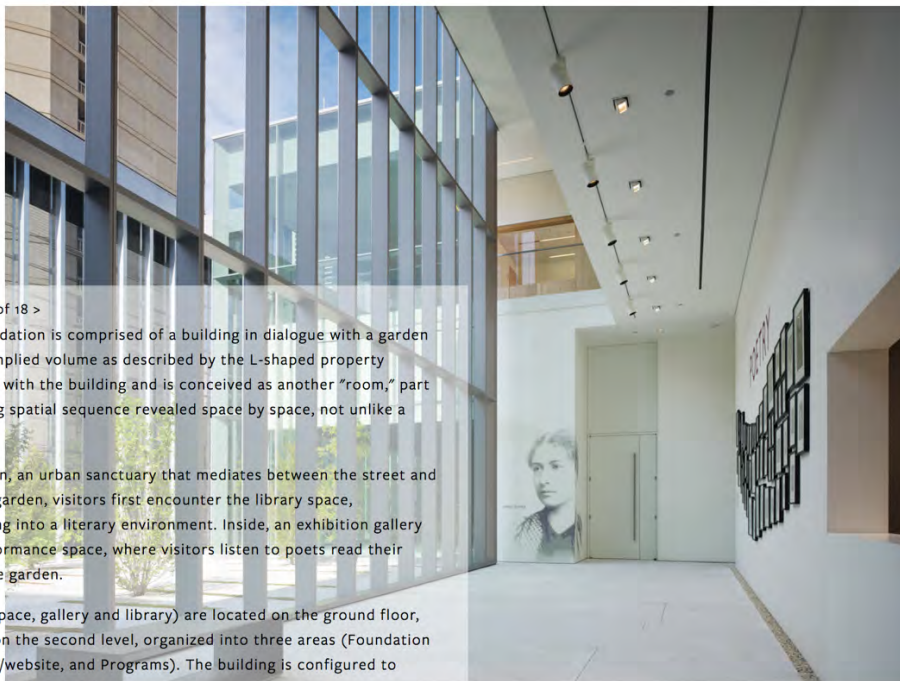


Poetry Foundation Info < 11 of 18 >

Chicago Illinois The Poetry Foundation is comprised of a building in dialogue with a garden created through erosion of an implied volume as described by the L-shaped property boundary. The garden interlocks with the building and is conceived as another "room," part of the building's slowly-unfolding spatial sequence revealed space by space, not unlike a poem is revealed line by line.

Visitors enter through the garden, an urban sanctuary that mediates between the street and enclosed building. Entering the garden, visitors first encounter the library space, announcing that they are entering into a literary environment. Inside, an exhibition gallery connects the library to the performance space, where visitors listen to poets read their work against the backdrop of the garden.

Public functions (performance space, gallery and library) are located on the ground floor, while office spaces are located on the second level, organized into three areas (Foundation Administration, Poetry magazine/website, and Programs). The building is configured to allow for views from all spaces into the garden.



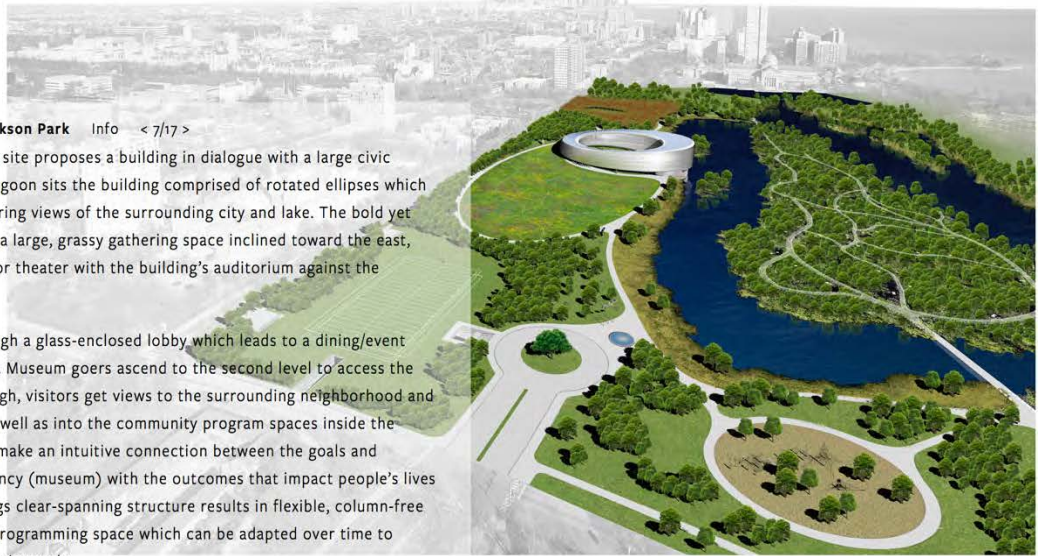
Obama Presidential Center – The only Chicago-based firm among the seven finalists

<http://www.jrarch.com/obama-presidential-center-jackson-park>

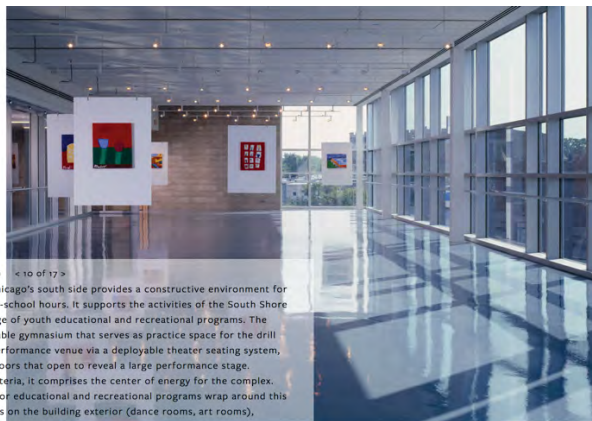
Obama Presidential Center - Jackson Park Info < 7/17 >

The design for the Jackson Park site proposes a building in dialogue with a large civic landscape. On the edge of the lagoon sits the building comprised of rotated ellipses which hover above the landscape, offering views of the surrounding city and lake. The bold yet understated structure encircles a large, grassy gathering space inclined toward the east, where it forms an indoor/outdoor theater with the building's auditorium against the backdrop of the lagoon.

Visitors enter the building through a glass-enclosed lobby which leads to a dining/event space with its waterside terrace. Museumgoers ascend to the second level to access the museum; as they circulate through, visitors get views to the surrounding neighborhood and parkland around the building as well as into the community program spaces inside the building, allowing the visitor to make an intuitive connection between the goals and initiatives of the Obama Presidency (museum) with the outcomes that impact people's lives (community space). The building's clear-spanning structure results in flexible, column-free interior spaces for community programming space which can be adapted over time to respond to changing programmatic needs.

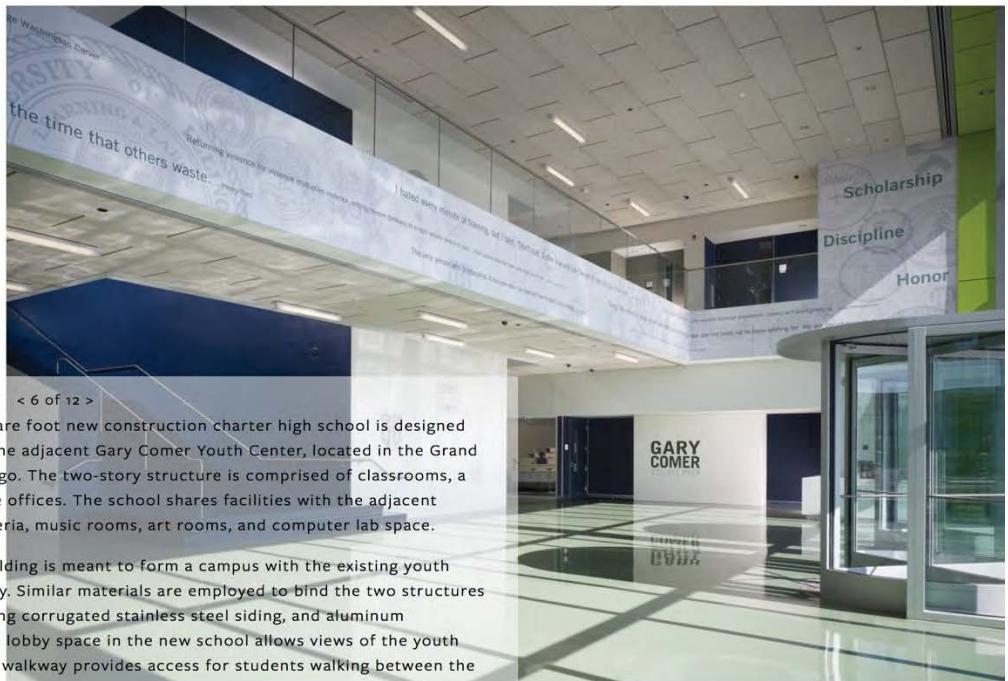


Gary Comer Youth Center, Chicago, Illinois
<http://www.jrarch.com/gary-comer-youth-center>



Gary Comer Youth Center Info < 10 of 17 >
This youth center located on Chicago's south side provides a constructive environment for area youths to spend their after-school hours. It supports the activities of the South Shore Drill Team as well as a wide range of youth educational and recreational programs. The building's main space, an adaptable gymnasium that serves as practice space for the drill team, converts to a 600-seat performance venue via a deployable theater seating system, deployable curtains and stage doors that open to reveal a large performance stage. Together with the adjacent cafeteria, it comprises the center of energy for the complex. Bars of flexible program space for educational and recreational programs wrap around this core, ending in important spaces on the building exterior (dance rooms, art rooms), displaying the activity inside to the community.

Gary Comer College Prep, Chicago, Illinois
<http://www.jrarch.com/gary-comer-college-prep>



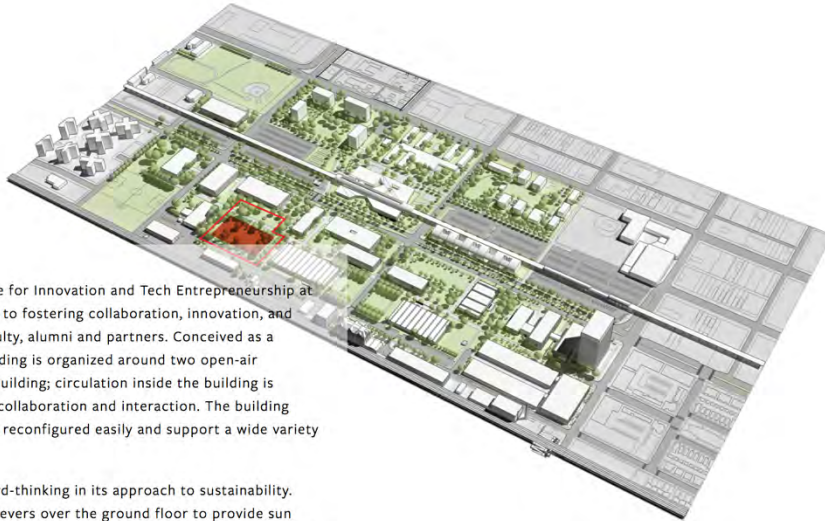
Gary Comer College Prep Info < 6 of 12 >

Chicago Illinois This 42,000 square foot new construction charter high school is designed to be used in conjunction with the adjacent Gary Comer Youth Center, located in the Grand Crossing neighborhood of Chicago. The two-story structure is comprised of classrooms, a lecture room, and administrative offices. The school shares facilities with the adjacent Youth Center: gymnasium, cafeteria, music rooms, art rooms, and computer lab space.

The new charter high school building is meant to form a campus with the existing youth center, yet retain its own identity. Similar materials are employed to bind the two structures into one unified campus, including corrugated stainless steel siding, and aluminum composite panels. A large glazed lobby space in the new school allows views of the youth center from both levels; a stone walkway provides access for students walking between the two buildings.

IIT Ed Kaplan Family Institute of Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, Chicago, Illinois

<http://www.jrarch.com/iit-innovation-center>



IIT Innovation Center Info < 3 of 15 >

Chicago Illinois The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at the Illinois Institute of Technology is devoted to fostering collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship between IIT's students, faculty, alumni and partners. Conceived as a hybrid of campus space and building, the building is organized around two open-air courtyards through which visitors enter the building; circulation inside the building is indirect and dispersed, designed to promote collaboration and interaction. The building provides flexibly adaptive space which can be reconfigured easily and support a wide variety of uses.

The design of the Innovation Center is forward-thinking in its approach to sustainability. The second floor of the building, which cantilevers over the ground floor to provide sun shading, is enclosed in a dynamic façade of ETFE foil cushions which can vary the amount of solar energy entering the building through sophisticated pneumatics. The ETFE foil is 1% the weight of glass and gives the building a light, cloud-like appearance.



151 North Franklin, Chicago, Illinois

<http://www.jrarch.com/151-n-franklin>



151 N. Franklin Info < 2 of 17 >

Chicago Illinois 151 North Franklin is a 36-story office tower located in the heart of Chicago's "Loop" financial district whose design supports new ways of working. In a departure from the typology of the typical hermetic urban office tower, the base of the building is carved away at grade to create a four-story covered plaza that extends the adjacent park into the site and creates an urban public space which mediates between the city and the building interior.

This public plaza is the first in a series of interconnected spaces designed to support collaboration. The building lobby features sunken and raised conversation lounges; a monumental stair leads from this lobby to lounge and meeting areas on a mezzanine which access a second floor outdoor garden whose atmosphere is quiet and contemplative. At the top of the building is a lively roof terrace with bar and casual seating and views of the surrounding Loop.



SELECTED HONORS for the Projects Listed Above

R+D Award, Architect Magazine, IIT Innovation Center Dynamic ETFE Facade, July 2017

http://www.architectmagazine.com/awards/r-d-awards/award-dynamic-etfe-facade_o

American Academy of Arts and Letters 2017 Architecture Award Winner, John Ronan, March 2017

<http://artsandletters.org/pressrelease/2017-architecture-award-winners/>

John Ronan Architects Ranked #3 of Top 50 in Design by Architect Magazine, September 2013.

AIA Distinguished Building Award, Poetry Foundation, October 2012.

AIA Interior Architecture Award, Poetry Foundation, October 2012.

AIA Divine Detail Award, Poetry Foundation, October 2012.

American Architecture Award, The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture & Design, Poetry Foundation, 2012.

Friends of Downtown, Best New Building Award, Poetry Foundation, February 2012.

AIA Institute National Honor Award, Poetry Foundation, January 2012.

<http://www.architectmagazine.com/topic/2012-aia-institute-honor-awards-architecture>

Annual Design Review, Architect Magazine, Gary Comer College Prep, December 2011.

Patron of the Year Award, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Poetry Foundation, South Shore International College Prep High School, Dec 2011.

AIA Distinguished Building Award, Gary Comer College Prep, October 2011.

American Architecture Award, The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture & Design, Gary Comer College Prep, 2011.

Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence, Silver Medalist, Gary Comer Youth Center/Gary Comer College Prep, May 2011.

AIA/CAE Educational Facility Design Awards Program, Award of Merit, Gary Comer College Prep, March 2011.

Patron of the Year Award, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Gary Comer College Prep, December 2010.

Green Good Design Award, The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture & Design, Gary Comer Youth Center, October 2010.

Award of Excellence, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, Gary Comer Youth Center, May 2009.

AIA National Honor Award, Gary Comer Youth Center, April 2009.

http://www.architectmagazine.com/awards/aia-announces-2009-honor-awards_o

AIA Distinguished Building Award, Gary Comer Youth Center, October 2007.

AIA Divine Detail Award, Gary Comer Youth Center, October 2007.

AIA Sustainability Award, Gary Comer Youth Center, October 2007.

American Architecture Award, The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture & Design, Gary Comer Youth Center, 2007.

The Chicago Building Congress Merit Awards, First Place, Gary Comer Youth Center, 2007.

Richard H. Driehaus Award for Architectural Excellence, First Place, Gary Comer Youth Center, 2007.

Greenworks Awards, City of Chicago, Gary Comer Youth Center, 2006.

Emerging Voices, The Architectural League of New York, 2005.

P/A Award Citation, Perth Amboy High School, 2005.

Perth Amboy High School Design Competition, Winner, 2004.

SELECTED PRESS for the Projects Listed Above

- "Dynamic ETFE Facade R+D Awards," Architect Magazine, July 2017
- "Return to Splendour - Chicago," Monocle, April 2016
- "Meet the Only Local Architect Competing to Design President Obama's Chicago Library," FastCoDesign, February 2016
- "What could this Chicago architect's Obama library look like?," Crain's Chicago Business, December 2015
- "Barack Obama Foundation Issues RFP to Seven Potential Architects for the Future Presidential Center," Obama Foundation website, December 2015
- "IIT's planned innovation space: 'japanese lantern,' tech office touch," Chicago Tribune, May 2015
- "Taking the High-Craft High Road," IIT Magazine, Spring 2015
- "ARCHITECT Visits: Poetry Foundation," Architect Magazine website, June 2014
- "Best of Detail: Glass - Poetry Foundation," Detail, March 2014
- "Facades - Poetry Foundation," Detail Magazine, November 2012
- "John Ronan Architects - Poetry Foundation," The Plan, October 2012
- "Designing Pragmatism: An Interview with John Ronan," Arcade, September 2012
- "The Innovators: A Poem in Glass and Metal," Crains Chicago Business, 2 July 2012
- "Poetry in Notion," Chicago Architect, March/April 2012
- "Who's Chicago's next star architect? John Ronan already shining brightly." Chicago Tribune, January 2012
- "Annual Design Review", Architect Magazine, Gary Comer College Prep, December 2011
- "Open Verse," Architectural Record, November 2011
- "Goldberg Going Up," Chicago Architect, September/October 2011
- "Poetry's New Palace," The Wall Street Journal, 17 August 2011
- "New Poetry building's lyrical joys unfold gradually," Chicago Tribune, 26 June 2011
- "Gary Comer College Prep," Architectural Record, January 2011
- "Comer Prep shines as beacon of hope." Chicago Tribune, 26 September 2010
- "Buildings for Bards," The Architect's Newspaper, May 2010
- "New Austin School breaks the mold," Chicago Tribune, April 2010
- "Ten Modern Masterpieces," Chicago Magazine, September 2007
- "Chicago, Reinventing a Legacy," Blueprint, May 2007
- "Chicago Hope," Architect Magazine, March 2007
- "Miracle on 72nd Street," Metropolis, December 2006
- "Don't Say Modern; Say Light, Air and Space," The New York Times, 27 July 2006
- "New Youth Center in Grand Crossing a Beacon of Optimism," Chicago Tribune, June 2006

2. Research/Writing:

Production of Outstanding Studies/Writing of National Prominence

We highlight a few of many research articles/writings produced by and on Professor John Ronan's work. We attach a sample and include a link to the articles.

EFTE Dynamic Façade Research

This article described the research of the sustainable qualities of the Ed Kaplan Family Institute of Innovation and Tech entrepreneurship at the Illinois Institute of Technology that is currently under construction. In 2017, the research was submitted to the Journal of the American Institute of Architects and was given a R+ D award. See following pages for portions of this research article.

Architect Magazine - 2017 R+D Awards

http://www.architectmagazine.com/awards/r-d-awards/award-dynamic-etfe-facade_o

Centerline Essay by John Ronan on The Poetry Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

This essay was included in a publication for the Center for American Architecture and Design, (CAAD), University of Texas, Austin, TX, 2015. Founded in 1982, one of the main purposes of the Center for American Architecture and Design was to offer a high-quality publishing program for innovative research and scholarship on current topics in architecture. In 2005, the CAAD added the editing and publishing of an additional book series, Centerline.

For more information, <http://soa.utexas.edu/publications/centerline-9-poetry-foundation>

Explorations: The Architecture of John Ronan

Princeton Architectural Press, New York, NY, 2010

In 2010, a monograph of John Ronan's architectural work was published by Princeton Architectural Press, one of the preeminent publishers of architecture and the allied arts.

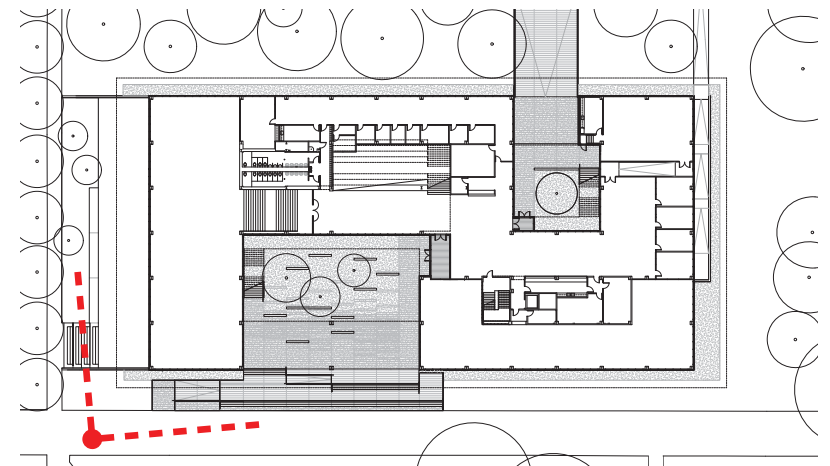
Included in the monograph is a foreword written by the Toshiko Mori, the Robert P. Hubbard Professor in the Practice of Architecture, and former Chair of the Department of Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

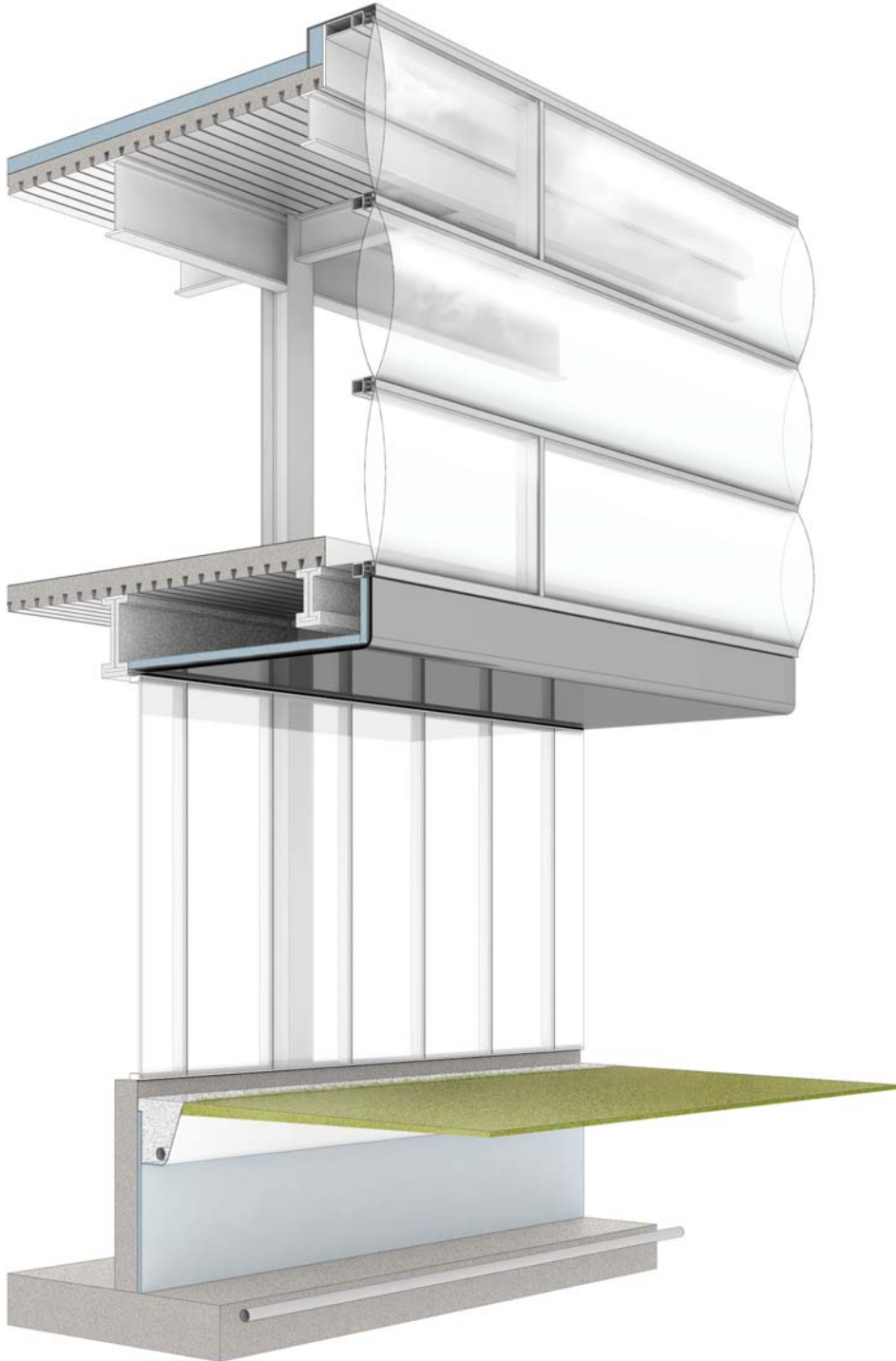
For more information: <https://issuu.com/papress/docs/explorations-john-ronan-architects> (excerpt)

Solar Filter

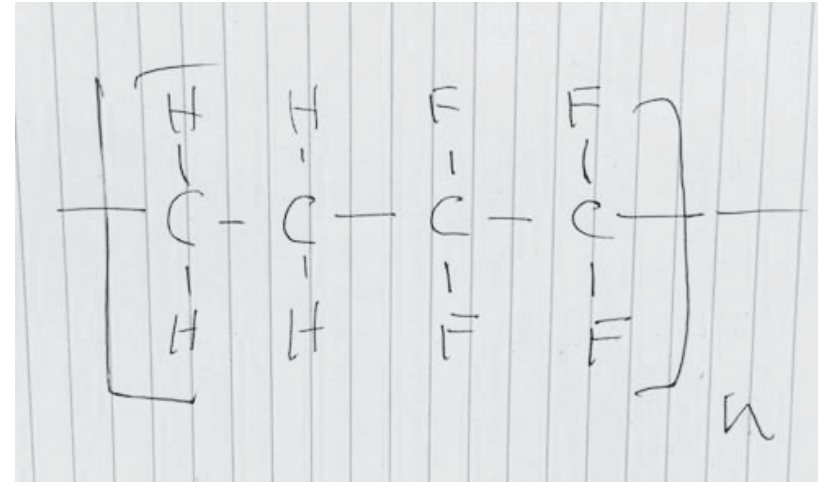
Dynamic ETFE Façade for The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at the Illinois Institute of Technology

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at the Illinois Institute of Technology with its dynamic Ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) façade, which modulates incoming solar energy through sophisticated pneumatics.





ETFE Sample Panel



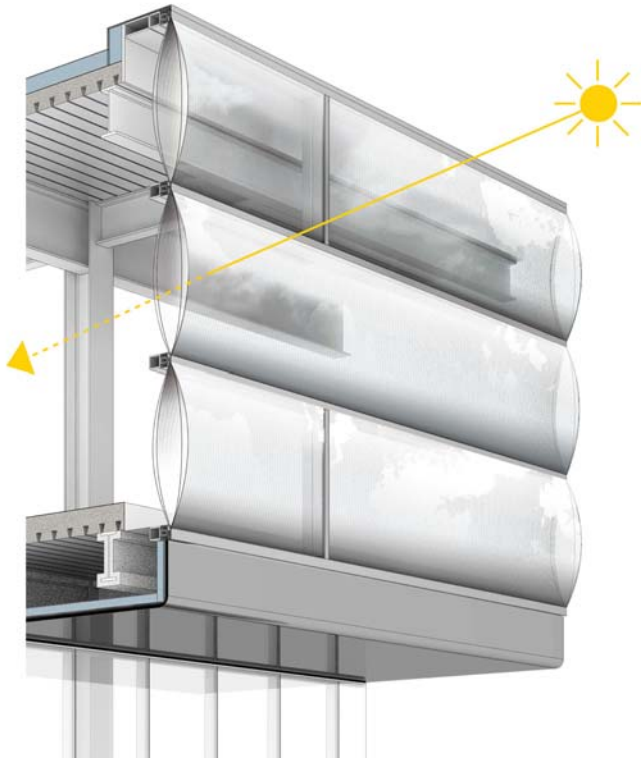
ETFE Chemical Diagram

ETFE Façade

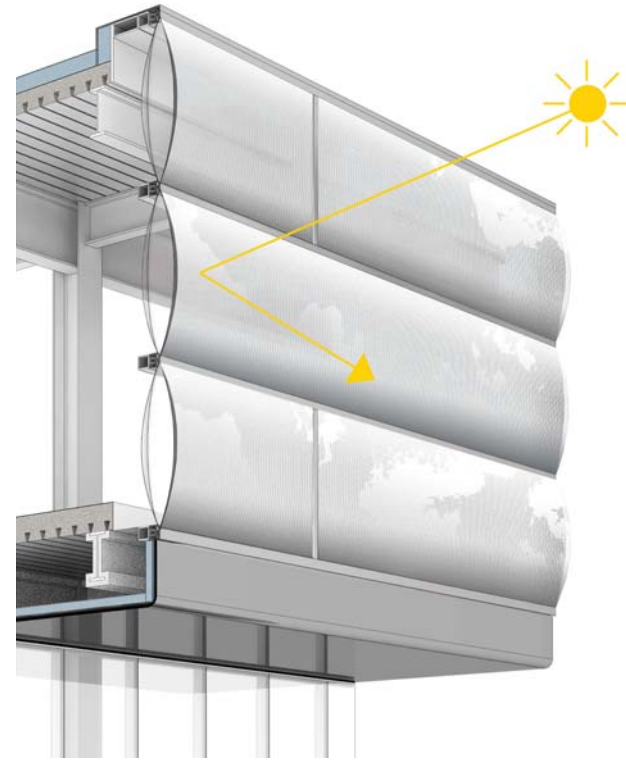
The design of the Innovation Center is innovative in its own right, and forward-thinking in its approach to sustainability. The second floor of the building, which cantilevers over the ground floor to provide sun shading, is enclosed in a dynamic façade of ETFE foil cushions which can vary the amount of solar energy entering the building through sophisticated pneumatics. The ETFE foil is 1% the weight of glass and gives the building a light, cloud-like appearance.

Dynamic Façade

The amount of solar energy entering the building can be modulated through sophisticated pneumatics which moves a fritted inner layer of etfe into open and closed positions.



Open



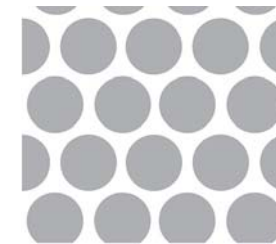
Closed

outer layer white ink / mid. layer medium ink

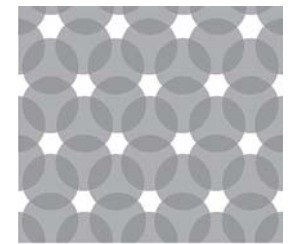
	closed position			open position		
	UV	visible light	solar light	UV	visible light	solar light
transmission	0.08	0.24	0.26	0.10	0.27	0.28
reflectance	0.21	0.49	0.43	0.16	0.46	0.41
absorption	0.70	0.27	0.31	0.74	0.26	0.31
shading coefficient		0.34			0.47	
G-value = SHGC		0.30			0.41	
SHGC range					0.13	



Layer A



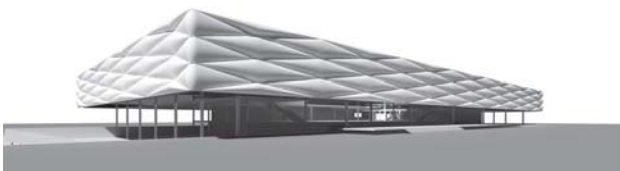
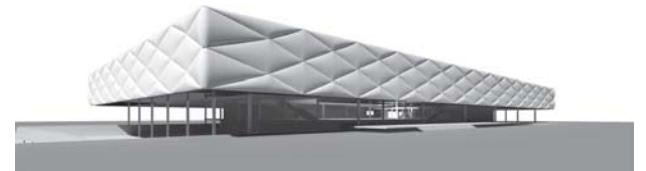
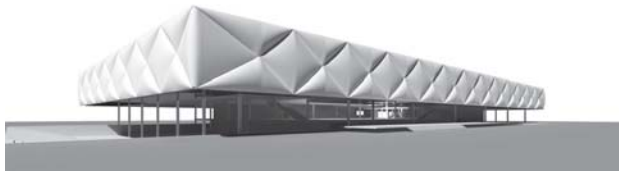
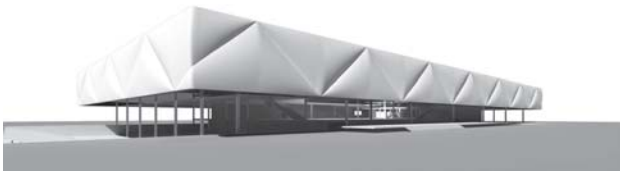
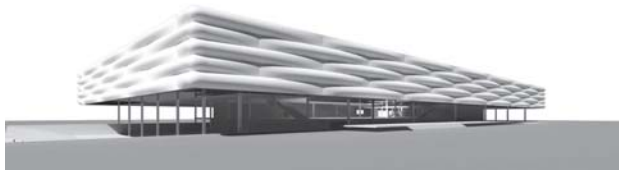
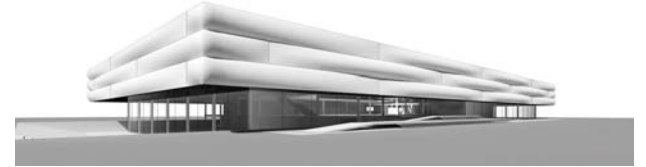
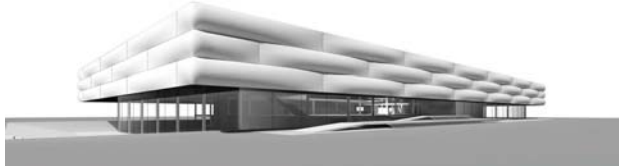
Layer B

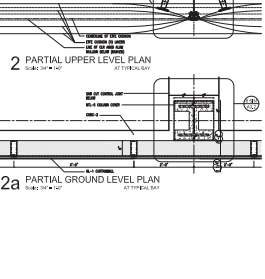
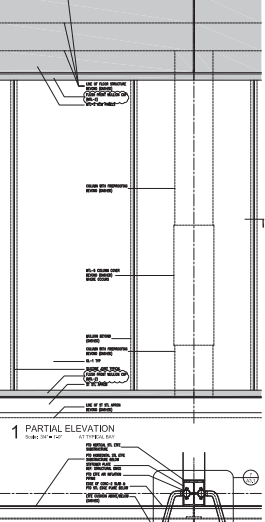
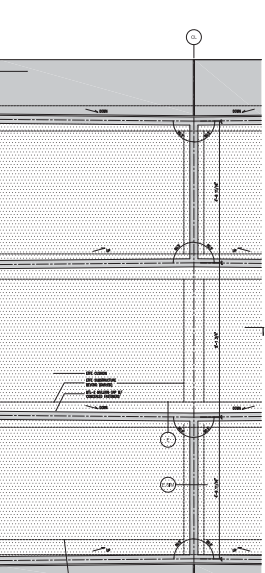
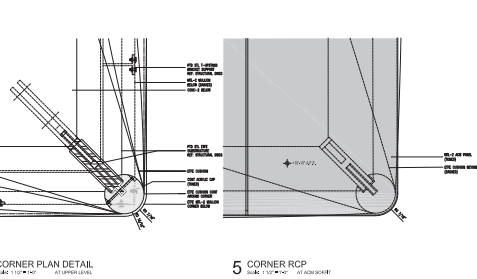
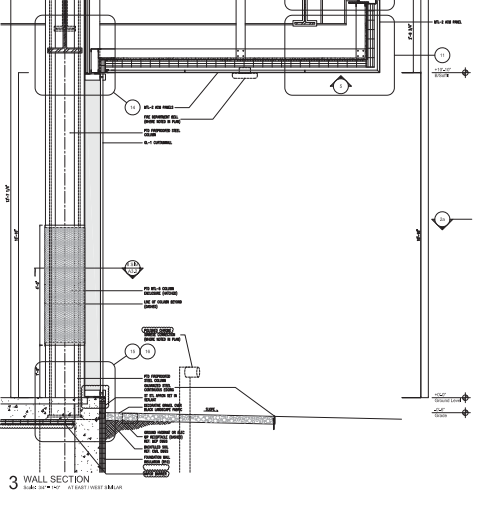
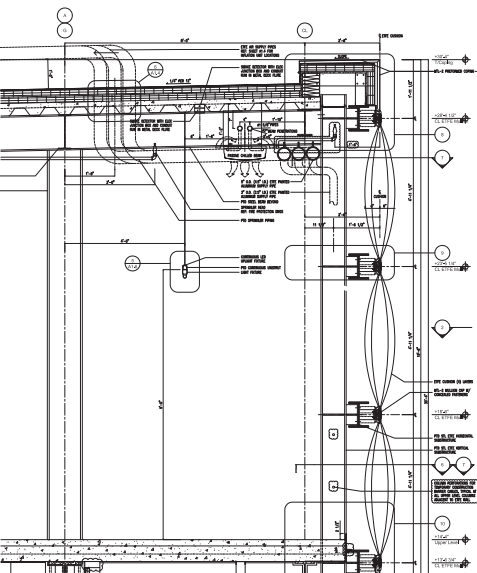
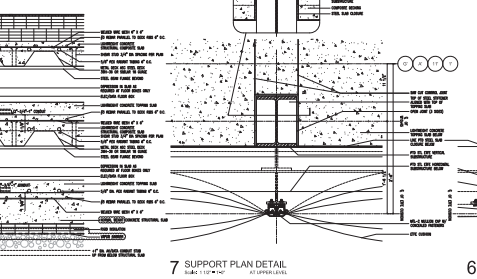
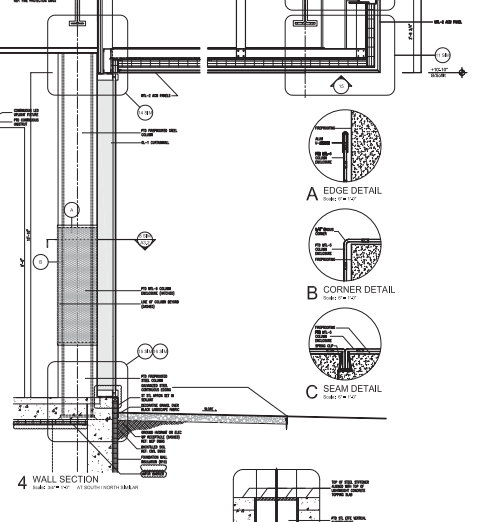
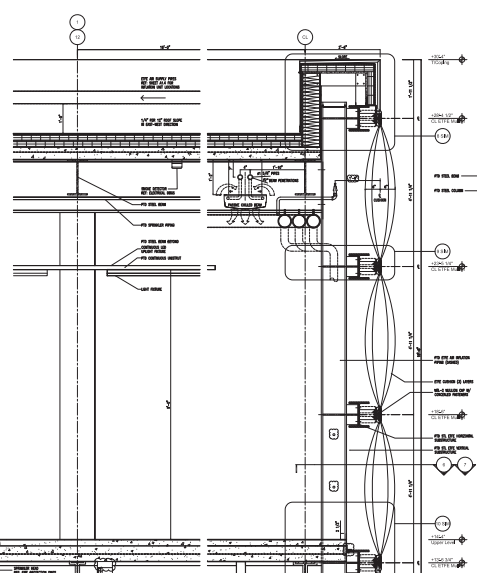
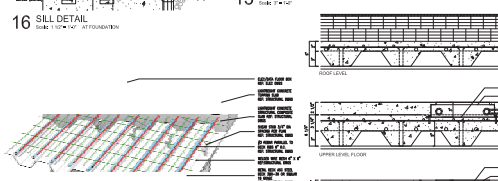
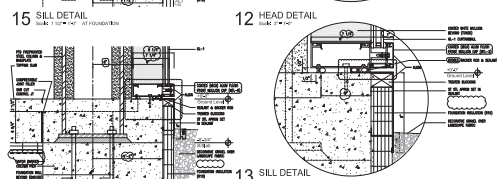
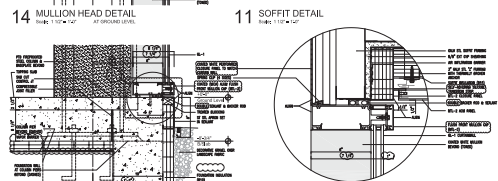
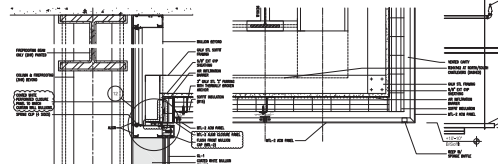
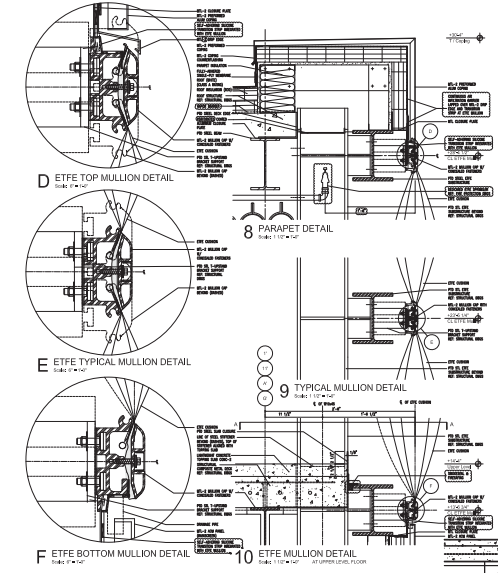


Closed

Early Studies

An advantage of the ETFE material is that it can span very large distances, making the building enclosure clean and efficient.





3. Teaching Ability: Inspiring Students to Learn and Work

Over the past 20 years, Professor Ronan has taught numerous design studios and seminars related to his professional design practice and building research interests. His studios at IIT are conducted like an architectural research lab, where the students systematically analyze and identify key elements in the creation and making of buildings. He also expands the exploration by layering issues of social and cultural importance (such as memory, ritual, identity) that span across the visual and performing arts. Included in this section are descriptions of one of his design studios and materiality seminar.

Included in this section are samples of his syllabi and letters from former students who are now teaching architecture to the next generation of students.

Atmosphere John Ronan Studio

“Without atmosphere a painting is nothing.”

--Rembrandt Van Rijn

“Design is a funny thing, you really need these feelings, of sensing atmosphere, possibilities, materials, qualities. Atmosphere is better than any other term for expressing what I mean.”

--Jasper Morrison

This studio will explore the idea of “atmosphere” in architecture. Students will attempt to define what “atmosphere” is, analyze and identify the components that contribute to its creation, and explore ways in which atmosphere can be represented and communicated. The investigation will culminate in the design of a retreat center based on a subject as chosen by the individual student that embodies an atmosphere as identified by the student.

Methodology

The initial period (2-3 weeks) of the studio will operate like a seminar. As a group, the studio will investigate the studio topic and discuss questions related to atmosphere, including:

- What is atmosphere?
- How is atmosphere achieved?
- What is the role does materiality play in the creation of atmosphere?
- How does one represent atmosphere?
- And so on.

There will be readings on atmosphere that the studio will discuss in class, and we will look at examples of atmosphere in realms outside of the architecture (film, literature, fine art, photography, culinary arts, landscape, etc.). Introductory exercises will be conducted whereby the student will attempt to identify atmosphere in objects and spaces. Students will be asked to present examples from their own experience of places/spaces that have “atmosphere” and attempt to describe the character of that atmosphere, and analyze the factors that contributed to its realization.

As an introductory design exercise students will be asked to identify a specific type of atmosphere and make an abstract object—with an “inside” and an “outside”—that embodies a self-identified atmosphere, paying special attention to materiality, the way the object is made, and its perception by the senses. This brief, abstract exercise will lead into the semester’s design project.

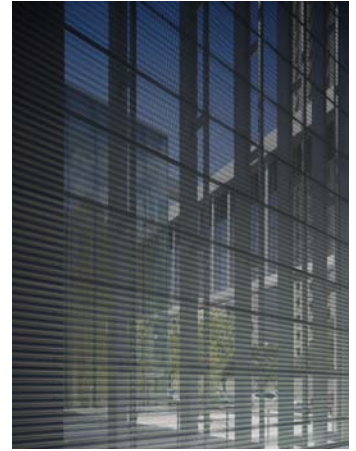
Design Project

The bulk of the studio (10 weeks) will be spent applying the knowledge gained in the introductory research and investigation portion of the semester in the design of a retreat center. The subject of the retreat center—whether scientific, sociological, spiritual, or something else— will be determined individually by each student and be intertwined with the character of the atmosphere that they intend to explore or create. The program for the retreat center will include a large gathering space, a space for cooking and eating, and a number of rooms for sleeping and bathing, plus support spaces.

Course Format

Course time will be divided between group discussion, desk crits, pin-ups, group and individual research, and field trips. There will be three reviews with guest critics during the semester.

Information on the work of John Ronan can be found on the John Ronan Architects website at jrarch.com. For further information on the studio students can email @jrarch.com



A 481 Materiality in Architecture Syllabus

John Ronan
Professor, IIT College of Architecture
Principal, John Ronan Architects, Chicago
ronan@jrarch.com

This course examines the topic of material culture in contemporary architecture, and explores the different approaches, ideas and philosophies associated with aspects of materiality in architecture through the investigation and discussion of case study projects by contemporary architects. Students are introduced to a variety of approaches to the topic since the dawn of the Modern Movement, and explore how different contemporary architects approach the idea of materiality in their work, through their words, thoughts and built work. Thematic topics related to materiality are also presented and discussed, including materiality and landscape, materiality and technology, and materiality and memory. The class format is a lecture presentation by the professor with student discussion. The course is an elective section of the History/Theory sequence

Structure

Each week we will explore a different theme through the work of a particular architect or group of architects, and include the work of artists, designers and landscape architects. There will be an interactive presentation led by the professor with student dialogue. Readings will be issued weekly in advance of the session and discussed in class. There will be a blog where students will be expected to discuss questions raised by the course material. There will be periodic progress reviews of the student presentations.

Requirements

Students will be required to contribute the discussion in class each week, as well as in the online blog. There will be group research projects conducted by student groups and presented to the class.

Rules

Students will be expected to attend class each week and participate in the discussion. Attendance is mandatory and missed sessions must be cleared with the professor in advance. After one unexcused absence, each unexcused absence thereafter will result in the lowering of the student's grade one letter grade for each unexcused absence.

Electronic devices must be turned off in class (no cell phones, iPhones, iPads, blackberries, PDA's, laptops, iPods, televisions, gameboys, or electronic distractions of any kind will be tolerated). Also, this is not a class where you blindly write down everything the professor is saying in your notepad or on your laptop; it is a class where you need to sit back, relax, and be focused and contributing to the investigation of the material being presented by asking questions or contributing thoughts or dialogue. Also, do not sit in class and talk to the person next to you privately throughout the class, as this is disruptive to the others. If you have something to say, say it to the whole class. Violators will be separated.

Grading Basis

Students will be graded on their contribution to the weekly class online blog discussion and the quality, depth, and thoughtfulness of their student presentation. To receive an "A" grade for the class, you will have to contribute weekly to the in class and online student discussion, and make a high quality student presentation.