

Syllabus
Winter 2018

LA 289 DESIGN STUDIO

Space | Site | Change



Middle Field Series
Albermarle County, Virginia

Time	M, W, F 1:00pm - 4:50pm
Location	TBD
Credits	6
Instructor	Michael Geffel Department of Landscape Architecture Lawrence Hall, Room 209 mgeffel@uoregon.edu
Prerequisites	No previous studio experience required.
Studio Description	As the foundational studio in the BLA sequence, this course will introduce students to the fundamental concepts and techniques of architecture. Through an intensive series of workshops we will study space as the elemental medium of architecture; site as the shifting ground for design proposition; and change as an essential quality of landscape. In conjunction with LA 350, drawing will be prioritized as the critical language of design, and students will learn to see, think and speak through drawings. We will also make a lot of models, culminating with the installation of 1:1 “field experiments” at the end of the term. It will be a lot of work, we may shed a few tears, but it will be a lot of fun.

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Curricular Context
[text taken from
the departmental
Studio Program Goals
document, 2010]

The first LA 289 studio program usually consists of a series of short, intense projects, choreographed as a sequence to engage a variety of fundamental and prototypical landscape architectural problems, involving site analysis, spatial composition, drafting, scaling, sketching, section drawing, axonometric drawing, lettering, and design process. The sequence gradually builds with the second LA 289 studio to more complete projects of longer duration that combine and further practice and refine many of the above elements, adding perspective drawing and digital media to the mix, to begin to demonstrate the higher levels of integration and comprehensiveness required of design decisions.

Development of a common design language and improving skills in visual thinking are stressed in this beginning year of landscape architectural design. Cross-fertilization is programmed in to make linkages between LA 289 and other portions of the Planning and Design Sequence and Subject Areas. The studio might for example incorporate themes from LA 260 Understanding Landscapes, integrate instruction in LA 350 or 352 Landscape Media classes, the application of plant materials knowledge to planting design elements, or involve second year design students with a portion of a project concurrently being undertaken in another more advanced studio.

Specific objectives of LA 289 include:

1. to teach students to think about, value and effectively use their past environmental experience and present sensibilities as design sources;
2. to introduce creative processes and basic design theories;
3. to build design vocabularies and an appreciation of well-designed places;
4. to engage a range of landscape design issues, scales, media and methods, in a series of distinct but interrelated projects;
5. to introduce students to the diversity of landscape architectural values, interests and responsibilities;
6. to take advantage of developmental opportunities of a two-term time frame;
7. to build an appreciation for craft, a striving for the highest quality work, and an understanding that studio proposals are expected to be the very best the student can do at their particular level of development;
8. to introduce the processes of design criticism and the developmental and evolutionary nature of design recycling;
9. to begin learning to work creatively and responsibly in group situations.

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Class Format	Studio meeting times are primarily structured around design critiques, class discussion, lectures, project work, site visits, and occasional guest presentations. Outside of studio time, students are expected to complete workshop exercises, execute site visits as needed, develop designs for intermediate assignments, and prepare for midterm and final reviews.
Grading	Consistent with all Department of Landscape Architecture studios, this studio is graded Pass/No Pass. This grading policy is intended to encourage critical inquiry and risk-taking that pushes the boundaries of contemporary landscape architectural practice. Formative feedback will be provided by the instructor, studio guests, and mid-term and final reviewers. Summative feedback based on achievement of the course learning objectives will be provided by the instructor during exit interviews in Week 11.
Learning Objectives	<p>By the end of this studio, you should be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clear, precise, and thorough communication of the basic concepts of architectonics (mass, space, light);2. Proficiency in representing space using orthographic projections such as plan, section, elevation and axon;3. Proficiency making physical models to study and represent design ideas;4. The ability to research, diagram and present key case studies;5. The ability to apply these fundamental concepts and techniques to create and represent a design proposition.
Expectations	Highest professional standards will be expected and maintained throughout the term. Active in-class participation and progress is very important. Participation will include research, preparation for class activities, respecting the rights and property of others, working cooperatively with other students as needed, and completing assignments satisfactorily and on time.
Attendance Policy	<p>Students are expected to attend studio (which includes being in studio or in COD computer labs) each session for the full time allotted. Students may miss up to 4 hours of studio over the course of the quarter, with no questions asked. Absences beyond that allowed in this policy will require prior approval (only for things like ASLA conference attendance, medical emergencies, family bereavement, etc.); absences beyond that allowed in this policy without prior approval may result in failing the studio.</p> <p>All field trips, pin-ups, and reviews are required, are noted on the schedule included in the syllabus, and are not eligible to be considered as part of the 4 hours policy.</p>

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Deadlines, Extensions, Incompletes	Projects are due on or before the beginning of the studio period of their due dates, unless otherwise noted. Email the instructor as soon as you can if anything may prevent you from meeting a deadline as scheduled. Failure to submit a project(s) on time may result in a Marginal Pass or a Fail grade.
Retaining Copies of All Coursework	Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.
Studio Courtesy	Please have your cell phone set to silent during studio. You are welcome to use your smartphone for research purposes provided it does not become a barrier or distraction to your and your classmates' education or the ability of the instructor to teach.
Academic Resources	The University's Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) provides various programs, workshops, courses, tutors, and mentors to aid you in your coursework at the University of Oregon. One of the services that may be of particular benefit for this class is the TLC's Writing Lab, which provides one-on-one feedback on writing assignments. You may visit the Drop-In Writing Lab at 72 Prince Lucien Campbell, M-F 9am-4pm, with or without an appointment (http://tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/).
Academic Integrity	The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html .

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Accessibility The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify the instructor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Diversity The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities. We will value each class member's experiences and contributions and communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Landscape Architecture at 541.346.3634 or at landarch@uoregon.edu. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

Office of Equity and Inclusion

1 Johnson Hall
541.346.3175
<http://oied.uoregon.edu>

Center on Diversity and Community

54 Susan Campbell Hall
541.346.3212
<http://codac.uoregon.edu>

Bias Response Team

164 Oregon Hall
541.346.1134
brt@uoregon.edu
<http://bias.uoregon.edu>

**Sexual Violence and
Survivor Support
Statement**

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating

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campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Schedule In the event of inclement weather, the UO home webpage (<http://www.uoregon.edu/>) will include a banner at the top of the page displaying information about delay, cancellation or closure decisions for the Eugene campus. Additionally the UO Alerts blog will be updated with the latest updates and bulletins. Local television and radio stations will also broadcast delay and cancellation information.

Schedule may be adjusted at the discretion of the Instructor during the course of the term.

Inclement Weather Faculty members not able to travel to campus to convene their classes have the responsibility of notifying students in a timely way if their classes will be cancelled. In the event of a class cancellation, for any reason, the instructor will contact the Department of Landscape Architecture as the first point of contact, and also send an email via Canvas to all students.

Emergency Information In Case of Emergency CALL 911.

In case of non-emergency assistance:
Call the UO Police Department at 541.346.2919

If we need to evacuate the building during class, two possible evacuation routes include exiting LA 310 and *a) turning right, taking Lawrence Hall's southwest (glass enclosed) stairs to the ground floor, and then exiting through the southwest entrance of Lawrence Hall, or b) turning left, taking Lawrence Hall's south stairs to the ground floor, and then exiting through the front (south) entrance of Lawrence Hall.*

If we need to evacuate the building during class, our designated assembly point is *on the Old Quad, located west of Lawrence Hall.*

Be sure your cell phone is set up to receive UO Alert text messages: 1) Login to DuckWeb, 2) Click on the "Personal Information" menu, and 3) Click on "Enter/Update Emergency Alert Phone."

More information on emergency preparedness can be found online:
emc.uoregon.edu/content/resources-students

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Schedule

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 Architectonic Elementals	January 8 Architectonics	January 10 Unity	January 12 Dialog
Week 2 Similarity & Contrast	January 15 MLK Day No Class	January 17 Dialog	January 19 <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>
Week 3 Space & Volume	January 22 Volume	January 24 Expression	January 26 Spatial Sequence
Week 4 Precedent Study & Diagram	January 29 Precedent Research	January 31 Precedent Diagramming	February 2 Precedent Modelling
Week 5 Figure/Field Relationship	February 5 <i>Mid-Review</i>	February 7 Figure/Ground	February 9 Figure/Field
Week 6 Site & Context	February 12 Site	February 14 Context	February 16 Non-Site
Week 7 Adaptation	February 19 Precedent Adaptation	February 21 Transformation	February 23 <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>
Week 8 Change	February 26 Temporality	February 28 Process	March 2 Growth
Week 9 Materiality, Scale, Experiment	March 5 Materiality	March 7 Scale	March 9 Field Experiment
Week 10	Final Review (TBD)		
Week 11	Exit interviews		