Fall 2018 Syllabus

**Course Description**

The purpose of this studio is to provide a focused and informative investigation into the practice of designing interior space. Interior design is a specialized area of architecture that encompasses the analysis and understanding of existing and new built environments and the nature and qualities of their interior spaces—and most importantly, the experiences they provide for their occupants. Successful environments can be discovered through an in-depth examination of the desired human interactions that a space should support or challenge. It is through this awareness that designers can employ appropriate strategies for shaping spaces and imbuing them with character, informing the activities that take place there.

While re-considering an existing building in East Austin and its specific community context, this studio will reveal the process of designing a set of interior spaces. This course will dismantle this practice into its constituent parts with a particular emphasis on issues of building renovation, human behavior, programming, representation, lighting, color, and materials. Assignments will deal with specific aspects of concept development and will aim to convey organizational strategies for manipulating and defining three-dimensional spaces. Students will develop an approach based upon a perceptive and discriminating reading of the existing building’s interior, contents, and inhabitants, which will yield meaningful and site-appropriate results.

This semester, the studio will engage with a “real-life” client—the Boy’s and Girls Club of Austin who recently broke ground on a new 32,000-square-foot Home Club in East Austin. Through this new building, the organization seeks to address a variety of challenges for disadvantaged East Austin youth who lack access to safe, affordable, and educational programming after school. According to the Boys and Girls Club, tens of thousands of Austin youth lack a place to go after school during the hours of 3-7, which puts them at both academic and behavioral risk. On the other hand, when a Boys and Girls Club moves into a neighborhood, academic and social outcomes for diverse youth improve. While this studio will consider hypothetical scenarios, it will interface with the Boys and Girls Club representatives to understand the goals, missions, and programming needs for the future.
Sheth Family Club. Students will explore the social purpose of the club and devise ways to enhance the quality of the built environment to help achieve the club’s mission.

An initial exercise will address the emotive qualities of inanimate objects and spatial conditions, where students will select items representing a childhood memory and display them within an abstract volume of space. Exploring this further, students will then investigate the potential of reframing an interaction between a club member and an existing club space. Using a current club as a prompt, student design proposals will serve as small-scale interventions to alter or enhance the club experience. Finally, in the main semester project, students will explore designs to provide youth with The Ultimate Club Experience through developing a proposal for a new club to further increase the organization’s community and social impact.

**Studio Culture**

The School of Architecture believes in the value of the design studio model. Studio learning encourages dialogue, collaboration, risk-taking, innovation, and learning-by-doing. The studio offers an environment where students can come together to ask questions and make proposals, which are developed and discussed among classmates, faculty, visiting professionals, and the public-at-large. Studio learning offers intensive one-on-one instruction from faculty members, and provides the opportunity for each student to develop critical thinking skills and spatial and material sensibilities. The design studio offers a synthetic form of education, where project-based learning becomes the foundation for developing an understanding of and commitment to the school’s core values — broadmindedness, interconnectivity, professionalism, exploration and activism — all in service of architecture’s fundamental mission: to improve the quality of the built and natural environments.

**Design Conversations**

The School of Architecture offers a wide range of opportunities for students to extend the design conversations taking place in studios (Lecture Series, Goldsmith Talks, Exhibitions, etc). Students are encouraged to participate and be engaged.

**Studio Etiquette**

Etiquette is a code of conduct. It is a method for dealing with how people interact with one another, which is based upon mutual respect and accepted norms of behavior. This studio in many ways is a simulation of an actual design studio. Below are tips for proper studio etiquette, which will set the tone for a professional atmosphere and foster good workplace habits.

- Arrive to studio on time.
- Mute your cell phone, and put it away.
- Close down your email and social media sites.
- Do not eat meals in studio.
- Contribute to studio discussion when appropriate.
- Avoid side conversations and other distractions.
- Address the instructor and any other reviewers or guests professionally.
- Be attentive in studio.
- Stay for the entire studio.
- Bring what you need to be productive in studio or on-site visits.
- Contact the instructor directly when you have to miss studio.
- Keep a clean work area.
- Be prepared for desk crits.

**Email**

When writing the instructor an email, include “Design 3” in the subject line along with the topic of your inquiry. Emails should address the instructor and be professional in tone. The instructor will endeavor to reply in a timely manner, or will address your question in class.
Overview | Prerequisites
Design III is the third semester in the undergraduate design sequence for undergraduate architecture and interior design students in the School of Architecture. Successful completion of Foundation I and Foundation II, as well as VisComm I and II, are prerequisites for this course.

Studio Course Grading Guide
Establishing grades for projects of a creative nature is a more complex matter than grading in other academic areas. While each project contains certain quantifiable elements by which it may be evaluated, a significant portion of each grade is derived from a broader, more subjective set of issues.

Grading for studio courses is broken into three components for each given mark:

1/3 grasp (understanding the ideas and issues of the project at hand, combined with an appropriate process of inquiry);

1/3 process (the consistent and rigorous development and testing of ideas); and

1/3 resolution (the demonstration of competence, completeness, and finesse through representation).

Your work will be evaluated on its rigor and evolution over the semester.

Grade Descriptions
A/A-: excellent
Project surpasses expectations in terms of inventiveness, appropriateness, visual language, conceptual rigor, craft, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. Project is complete on all levels.

B+/B/B-: above average
Project is thorough, well presented, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. Project is complete on all levels and demonstrates potential for excellence.

C+/C: average
Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class and not pursued with dedication and rigor. Project is incomplete in one or more areas.

C-/D+/D/D-: poor
Project is incomplete. Basic grasp of skill is lacking, visual clarity or logic of presentation are not level-appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required competence and knowledge base.

F: fail
Project is unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned when students have excessive unexcused absences.

X: excused incomplete
Can be given only for legitimate reasons of illness or family emergency. Simply not completing work on time is not an adequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans’ offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date. Work must be completed before the second week of the next semester in which the student is enrolling, according to the School of Architecture policy.
ALL GRADES ARE SUBJECT TO DEDUCTIONS FOR ABSENCES, LATE WORK AND LATE ARRIVALS.

**Course Requirements**

Textbook:
Basics Interior Architecture: Form + Structure  

Additional weekly and topical readings may be posted on Canvas.

Supplies:
A dedicated sketchbook for sketching and note taking, a 3-ring binder with pockets for keeping handouts, readings, etc., a 14” roll of tracing paper, an architectural scale, a tape measure, and model building supplies.

**Attendance Policy**

Most of our class meetings will be devoted to discussions, exercises, and hands-on workshops, so regular attendance and active participation are essential. You may miss two classes— for any reason— without penalty. Each additional absence, regardless of the reason, will lower your course grade by one full letter grade, and five or more absences will likely result in a failing grade for the course. Because our time in class is limited, promptness is important. Each instance of arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/2 of an absence. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to make sure you have not been marked absent. Students should notify the instructor prior to class if lateness or absence is known in advance. Students must notify instructors directly regarding lateness or absences; asking a classmate to inform the instructor is not acceptable. The student is responsible for completing work missed due to excused absences and initiating communication with the instructor to determine due dates.

**Religious Observances**

A student shall be excused from attending classes of other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify the instructor of the pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, an assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Academic Integrity**

Students who violate University policy on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

Refer to the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website for official University policies and procedures on academic integrity:

University Code of Conduct:
http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct
CARE Program
Counselors in Academic Residence (CARE) Program places licensed mental health professionals within the colleges or schools they serve in order to provide better access to mental health support for students who are struggling emotionally and/or academically.

Laura Dannenmaier (LCSW) is the CARE Program Director and is the assigned CARE counselor for the School of Architecture. Faculty and staff may refer students to the CARE counselor or students may directly reach out to her.

Laura Dannenmaier  |  BTL 114B  |  (512) 471-3115  
https://cmhc.utexas.edu/CARE_dannenmaier.html

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who require special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time.
http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/

Security, Safety, and the Studio
The studio is an exceptional learning environment. Since it is a place for all, it necessitates the careful attention to the needs of everyone. All spraying of fixative, spray paint, or any other substance should be done in the shop. Security is a necessary component for a studio that is accessible to you and your colleagues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Do not leave your studio without your studio key and do not leave your studio unlocked. Hold yourself and your studiomates accountable for the security of your shared space.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line
Concerns regarding the safety or behavior of fellow students, Teaching Assistants (TA), or Professors can be reported to the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. Calls can be made anonymously. If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Emergency Evacuation
In the case of emergency evacuation:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Students should familiarize themselves with all exit doors of each classroom and building they may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Reentry into a building is prohibited unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services offices.
- Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.