Project-02: PRECEDENTS

"Critical 'proof,' if it exists, depends on an aptitude not to discover the work in question but on the contrary to cover it as completely as possible by its own language."

-Roland Barthes, "What is Criticism?"

As you have already discovered in the analysis of architectural elements in Project 01, case studies and precedent analyses are critical to your training in architecture for understanding and distilling an existing artifact into the what, why, and how of design. The salient ideas, once analyzed, understood, and shared become powerful resources and inspiration for your own design work. In this project you will be asked to build upon your skills of analysis and abstraction from the first project and apply them to the study of an existing work of architecture. It will be most important that you understand these precedents for their relationships to their sites, their assembly of structure and materials, program adjacencies, organization of elements, site relationships, views (in and out), and the relationships of form to space. Similar to your first project, this will require both a deep understanding of the building under study, and an ability to distill and represent that building into a set of more specific qualities and characteristics.

Working in pairs, you will begin by collecting and analyzing existing drawings, texts, photographs, and other information found in books, magazines, archives, and online resources. At the conclusion of this assignment, you will teach your studio colleagues about your precedent, and the lessons to be brought forward for the following design projects. Your analysis is intended to inform and inspire your classmates and should therefore be descriptive, revelatory, and insightful. Analyses that go beyond the obvious will be valued more highly. A variety of building projects have been selected for their relevance to material assemblies and will serve as a collective resource for the ongoing work of all Studio 01 sections (note: the lists of projects will be supplied by each studio instructor).
Challenge: Define, analyze, distill, and transform a given architectural precedent into its fundamental building components, material assemblies, spatial relationships, and organizing principles. Re-present the precedent through a series of interpretive models and drawings that reveal both tangible and intangible qualities and characteristics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Collect, study, and analyze published information of your precedent (drawings, text, photos, models, interviews, articles, etc.)
- Use analytical drawings and models as exploratory and experimental tools for making discoveries about the spatial qualities and characteristics of your precedent.
- Use diagramming (2D and 3D, analog and digital) to clarify and communicate the characteristics of space, form, order, logics of construction, spatial hierarchies, movement, and other relevant analyses.
- Organize and present your analysis for the purpose of educating and informing others about your subject.
- Develop presentation skills (verbal and graphic; concise and meaningful).
- Establish a collective pool of case studies that will inform the work of all UG1 Studios.

METHODS
At its most instrumental, a precedent analysis will contribute new understanding (or at least new perspectives) on an existing piece of architecture. Analysis requires a deep understanding of your project from multiple perspectives so that you can focus your inquiry and generate new thoughts and knowledge to share. Therefore, you are to provide an in-depth analysis of the project from the documentation you are able to collect. Reproductions of conventional drawings as well as original diagrams (both drawn and physically modeled), will be your tools for analyzing your precedent and communicating its key characteristics. Your case study analysis should include the following concepts to explain your subject:

PRIMARY ANALYSIS (required)
- spatial hierarchies and organization (primary, secondary, tertiary spaces)
- structural hierarchies and material assemblies (logics of structure and materials)
- building parti (the basic scheme or concept of an architectural design, graphically represented)
- building to site relationships / interior and exterior relationships

SECONDARY ANALYSIS (choose 3)
- promenade / movement sequences
- underlying geometries with major and minor axes
- massing and void relationships
- symmetries and asymmetries
- thresholds
- intensities (light, sound, temperature, etc.)
- other topics relevant to your subject under study

DELIVERABLES
1. Your diagrams, drawings, and supporting text should be arranged thoughtfully for presentation using a summary book made of individual plates (11” x 17”, landscape format, layout TBD). Your plates should be organized using the Primary and Secondary analyses listed above, as well as the methods of representation listed below. Print and upload your final presentations to the course website/blog for sharing.
2. In addition to the Primary and Secondary analyses, include the following in your final packet (print and digital):
   a. Details: name of the project and the designer, location, and year of completion
   b. Legible images of your precedent (scanned or sourced online). Included proper citation of sources.
   c. Text synopsis of your research and findings, with an annotated bibliography (Chicago Manual of Style), citing all sources and crediting all images and graphics by others used in your plates and presentation. The bibliography should be the last plate in your packet (last slide of your presentation).
   d. 2D and 3D diagrammatic drawings demonstrating the concepts listed in the Primary and Secondary Analyses above. These drawings may consist of studies in plan, section, elevation, perspective, and axonometric, (or hybrids thereor) and may need to be at various scales to convey the relevant information. Media TBD.
   e. Analytical physical models that communicate a selection of concepts listed in the Primary and Secondary Analyses above. These models should consist of exploratory study models, as well as refined and well-crafted final models. You are encouraged to employ combinations of model-making methods from your previous courses (folding, stacking, wireframe, massing, etc.) as well as new methods (casting, carving, double frame (egg-crate), frame + skin, 3D printing, etc.).
DELIVERABLES (cont.)

Models to include (model material palette, techniques, and methods TBD):
- Study models (6 min.) - various scales (materials TBD)
- Final Models (2 min) – (scale: 1/8" = 1'-0" or 1/4" = 1'-0"; materials TBD)

Minimum architectural drawings to include (drawing type, media, technique, and method may be further qualified by each instructor):
- Plan(s): one plan by hand per student + additional plans (media TBD)
- Section(s): one longitudinal & one cross sections
- Elevation(s): major elevations
- Axonometric(s): hidden line (jellyfish) & exploded
- Diagram(s): Minimum of 7 (4 Primary and 3 Secondary analyses)
- Perspective(s): exterior & interior

Presentation of research and analysis:
- Precedents and primary source materials (photos, drawings, diagrams). Include captions, identifying information, and original sources
- Citations detailing the origins of references and source material (online or text).
- Process work (sketches, diagrams, notes, etc.)

GRADING CRITERIA

35% Making & Craft: Overall quality of your drawings, models, and presentations
25% Depth and rigor of investigation/research: Deep engagement with the subjects under study
20% Presentation: clarity and organization of visual information (verbal, text, and graphic communication)
20% Process and Progress: clear and consistent development and refinement of research

READINGS (list may be supplemented by individual studio instructors)


Ching Francis, Architecture: Space, Form, and Order, John Wiley & Sons; 3rd edition, 2007 (excerpts)

Ching Francis, Design Drawing, John Wiley & Sons; 2nd edition, 2010 (excerpts)


WORKING SCHEDULE

M-09/15 Project Delivered
W-09/17 Desk Crits and Lecture by John Cook (330pm – 530pm)
F-09/19 Site visit to Lakewood Mausoleum (130pm-530pm)
M-09/22 In-class Presentation (130pm, Rapson 54)
F-09/26 Desk Crits and Tutorial/Workshop (330pm – 530pm)
F-10/03 Final Presentations