

Instructor: Andrzej Zarzycki

Structural Study/Concepts + Structures

CONTEXT:

The assignment parallels a process many architects follow to develop their designs. Consider the following scenario. As an architect, you come across an interesting structure, its component, or detail. You are inspired by what you see and you are considering using something similar in your own design. In order to adapt this particular design to your own project, you need to understand construction ramifications governing this precedent, many of which go (significantly) beyond visual appearance. You need to investigate not only how this component connects with an overall structure and its role within a building, but also how it was constructed and the nature of its subcomponents.

The assignment is a design conjecture. It asks you to be speculative about investigated design and to develop a feasible proposition that fits the visible characteristics of the selected component. Your interpretation of the internal structure or components does not have to be true to the original, just possible.

PROJECT:

The assignment focuses on a small structure, or part of the structure that successfully integrates architectural with structural components. Examples of such structures could be canopies, bridges (connectors), or free-standing pavilions like bust stops. Each student or group of students should choose a structure that is physically accessible to them to conduct the in-depth investigation. This initial investigation should include on-site observations, photographic documentation, and sketching with dimensional notations. After the completion of the observational phase of the project, students must develop both two- and three-dimensional drawings and models.

DELIVERABLES:

- Provide all sources and data about the original project including the location, address, programmatic type, and architect or client information if known/available
- a set of sketches and photographic images describing the original detail
- two-dimensional drawings and three-dimensional models