

Instructor: Lorenzina Laera

Integrated Office/New York City

"As you have said, I really interrogate myself and am always ready to receive. But invariably I cannot start a project from its theoretical framework and then work my way to the detail. I always follow a double process, I try to comprehend the ideological reasons for the project, what lies behind it, what constitutes its social and formal innovation, its functional requirements, the context within which one works with respect to fellow practitioners, and at the same time I find it difficult to divorce these issues from my initial design sketches on grubby bits of paper that I take everywhere, with designs of junctions, bolts, and the smallest details. I cannot separate the two. Normally I start at this level, where I have the excuse of artisan experimentation, which I greatly enjoy."

Renzo Piano

Through the projects we will address commercial design regulations, construction and building systems, contract specification and documentation, as well as fully-realized layouts with fixtures and equipment, as well as furniture design. Underlying the course framework, we will consistently focus on the skills that are paramount to the design sensibility--critical thinking and clear, concise communication. This will allow for us to move from the technical ability to a higher level that validates the design concept and intention, while still firmly grounded in technical skills.

CONTEXT:

After the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, a design team of professional artists and representatives from different design disciplines was selected from around the world to work together towards the realization of the New York City Emergency Command Center in Lower Manhattan, near Ground Zero. Until the completion of the facilities, the team will work in an integrated and multi-disciplinary way in office space in DUMBO (an area located between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges) in Brooklyn, New York. The site for the facilities is located in an existing two-story brick building previously used for fleet services directly under the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge.

DESIGN PROGRAM/ACTIVITY SPACES:

The "integrated office" will be comprised of a number of private offices for managers and executives, open spaces to host a cluster of workstations, and common spaces. The focus will be on the common space core and the adjacencies among different departments. The engineering design and expertise is interrelated with that of the architectural discipline through all phases of the project, assuring efficient coordination and integration of services, as well as the best overall solutions to design challenges. The interior design department will work closely with the architectural and engineering staff composing interiors and also designs for furniture and textiles, curating artwork and accessories, defining new spatial programs, creating holistically-conceived branded environments, and researching innovative processes and paradigms. The in-house specialist in digital and interactive media and graphic designers will enhance the work of architects, engineers and interior designers and the opening of new channels of an integrated visual communication allowing for exploring design solutions and communicating data to consultants and contractors. The incorporation of sustainable building ideas such as green building, intelligent building, and energy efficiency is expected to raise the level of environmental awareness throughout the office as an integral part of design excellence. There is an information center, which has a comprehensive materials and books research center that helps the designers to select materials and products and initiates the use of new materials, ensuring the knowledge base to create inspirational as well as sustainable buildings. Model-making still plays a key role and a sophisticated model shop that can produce everything from sketch models to full size mock-ups will be included. Meeting ADA (American with Disabilities Act) regulations and standards is required. This regulation is specifically applicable to the building entrances, interior circulation and bathroom facilities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to fully document the design of the entire project and expected to work in virtual/digital and physical three-dimensional models in all spatial explorations. Furniture, finishes, and all lighting must be specified. Graphic documentation must include plans of both levels, reflected ceiling plans, sections/interior elevations, rendered/cut-away axonometrics, eye-level perspectives, finish and furniture schedules, selected construction details (both two- and three-dimensional documentation), and the detailed design and documentation of individual workstations.

Course Objectives

- To develop a critical and informed approach to design that clearly demonstrates a personal design sensibility and validates the concept or intention
- To incorporate the study of office systems as it relates to commercial design environments
- To increase the mastery of technical design skills and explore how new technology will affect designs
- To understand and assess client needs and overall management of the design project, while maintaining the integrity of the design
- To develop a project from conception to construction documentation that expresses the design intent in the finished physical form
- To refine and expand upon an understanding of field verification and site evaluation, including ceiling, lighting, sound and building systems
- To demonstrate incremental design ability based on day-to-day advancement and progress of the design
- To demonstrate an advanced understanding of the relationship between physical space and human behavior
- To increase communication skills and visual and verbal presentation
- To cultivate a design approach based on collaboration, from project design to realization

In compliance with the **CIDA Professional Standards 2011**, that reflects the evolving components of preparation for interior design practice, the student learning and program expectations that will be addressed in the studio are:

- Global Perspective for Design
- Human Behavior
- Design Process
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Space and Form
- Color and Light
- Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment and Finish Materials
- Environmental System and Controls
- Interior Construction and Building System
- Regulations

Textbook (required):

Designing Commercial Interiors/2nd Edition. Piotrowski, Christine and Elizabeth A. Rogers. (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2007)

Reference Periodicals:

Abitare / Architecture d'Aujourd'hui / Architectural Digest / Architectural Record / Casabella / Detail / Dwell / Domus / El Croquis / Frame / Interior Design / Metropolis / Nest / Wallpaper / World of Interiors

Additional reference books and materials are on reserve in the Littman Architecture and Design Library.