LARCH 6440: Workshop IV: Advanced Landscape Technologies

Instructor name: Deborah Georg
Year and term: SP 14
Meeting time: T TH 5:30-6:50
Meeting location: KN

COURSE INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION
Landscape architectural design and implementation encompasses a wide spectrum of project scales and purposes, from a regional initiative for identity to an intimate garden. Students have explored the broader spectrum, landscape planning which establishes the land use framework and management policies of the landscape by orchestrating the arrangement and interrelationship of multiple land uses across large land areas. At the opposite end of the scale, site design composes line, plane, form, color, texture, sound, and light via the artistic weaving of earth and water, plants and structure, softscape and hardscape, climate, and water into a multi-dimensional spatial experience. In the 6430 Workshop exploration, the “spirit of place”, the “ghosts” of past place, and the sensory delights and impacts of aroma, sound, touch, taste and aesthetic beauty were all explored as contributing factors that were documented as part of an interpretive Site Assessment, and site Inventory/documentation process. Some grading and infrastructural designs were prepared as part of this final interpretation of site.

We will use your exploration of AU 2013 in this course to develop advanced technical skills and detailed understanding of the key content areas, as well as supplement and support your work in the Spring Advanced Design Studio.

GOALS
1. Develop command of advanced:
   - grading
   - water management
   - planting techniques, with an emphasis on sustainable practices
2. Engage site materials, fabrication and construction technologies at an advanced level

FORMAT
As part of the assessment process we will build a project schedule which addresses most critical skills needed and development of competencies within those technical subsets. As part of the study, students will be expected to perform individual research and exercises to assure that fundamental technical skills are established. This work will include LARCH technical software, as well as hands on modeling and testing of material qualities and capabilities. There may be some teamwork, but it will primarily be part of in-studio ungraded work, or subcomponents of an individual submission, so that the student grade assessment will be based on their individual efforts and accomplishments. Teams will be assigned by faculty. The tools used will include fundamental research in materials, Case Studies in applied Materials and Advanced Infrastructure and in-situ evaluation of materials performance and infrastructure system design. All will build on and expect competency in site interpretation documentation (in depth, accuracy and completeness) as well as GIS applications as needed to bring project to completion.