LARCH 2780/7890: Parametric Surfaces
Malmstrom

Within parametric design lies the ability to explore an infinite number of design solutions with any given set of variables. So what happens when this design process meets the very surfaces we interact with on a daily basis? This seminar seeks to break down and explore existing projects utilizing parametric design techniques gaining a further understanding of their constructs while also allowing students to implement similar methods within their own studio designs.

Utilizing the Grasshopper interface within Rhino 4.0, students will begin by replicating a series of contemporary case-study projects employing the parametric design software. These projects range in scale from large topographies such as Eisenman’s Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe to façade studies such as Herzog & De Meuron’s Signal Box and more. After understanding each case-study, students will then take the project further as they propose their own modification to the parametric definition resulting in an altered version of the original project. The course will culminate in the fabrication of one of these modified systems utilizing the school’s various prototyping and fabrication equipment.

A prerequisite beginner/intermediate knowledge of Rhino 4.0 is strongly recommended.

This course has been approved for architectural elective credit.

3 credit hours

LARCH 4410/7410: 3D Visualization with AutoCAD and the Basics of Revit (session 2)
Cartwright

Learn how to use 3D AutoCAD; communicate 3 dimensional information to a client; render, lighting, and quick animations.

Learn the basics of Revit and how it can add to different scales of projects ranging from a city, landscape, or architectural design

2 credit hours
LARCH 4410/7410: Professional Drawing Standards for designers using AutoCAD (session 1)

Cartwright

Learn the tools and skills to use AutoCAD to create drawings and plans for the professional office (Blocks, Line weights, Parametrics, etc...).

Learn techniques of preparing CAD files to be transferred between programs such as GIS, Photoshop, Illustrator and 3d modeling software.

2 credit hours

LARCH 5620: History & Theory: Parks

Georg

Contemporary history and theory of landscape architecture practice and criticism, with an emphasis on evaluating conceptual, formal and performative aspects of designed landscapes. Focus on parks.

Note: 603 exclusion is not in effect.

3 credit hours

LARCH 7890: Design and the Managerial Mode

Roth

The much-noted re-alignment of the disciplines of architecture and landscape architecture in recent years has transformed the nature of both practices’ engagements with the world around them. Felt by architecture’s increasing appropriation of landscape strategies, the rise of ‘data’ and ‘research’ as operative terms, and the discipline’s confrontation with questions of nature; and by landscape architecture’s two-decade redressing as a form of urban practice via landscape, infrastructural and ecological urbanisms. However, underpinning this larger disciplinary transformation is a turn towards a fundamentally geographic mode of vision, where vast, sortable tables of information at the scale of the earth are presumed to supplant the legitimizing role previously held by the plan, section and image with the language of design as a form of environmental management.

This class will argue that the shift towards the geographic is not merely an expansion of design’s traditional agency to unprecedented scales, but represents a radically different relationship between design and the realities around it, where projects are supplanted with processes, statements with data, and making with managing. The class will survey the history of this managerial mode of practice within the disciplines of landscape architecture, architecture and urban design. The seminar will pay particular attention to the often-overlooked immediate post-war period in which the rise of systems and
cybernetic thinking, computational analysis tools like GIS, and an increasingly volatile political climate enlisted urban planners, landscape designers and architects into vast projects of geographic management both domestically and in the developing world.

Students will be expected to complete readings related to the topic of each week’s session, and engage in five analysis exercises over the course of the semester which explore the contours of geographic management thinking within contemporary design methodologies.

3 credit hours

LARCH 7890: Glimcher Seminar: West 8

Kentner

The Glimcher Seminar focuses on the work of West 8, an internationally recognized landscape architecture practice founded by Adriaan Geuze. Based in Rotterdam, West 8 has been one of the most provocative and productive design practices leading the discussion and advancement of landscape and ecological urbanism. This seminar will include numerous on-campus discussions with Adriaan Geuze, allowing students a rare level of access to and exchange with a landscape architect of such accomplishment.

3 credit hours