EXCESSIVE VOLUME

Historically, the relationship between volumetric interiors and the exterior massing has ranged from periods of literal offsets in geometry to fantastic sectional differences that surprise and delight. Through the calibration of thickness and depth the architect curates to what extent the technical necessities of a building correlates with the aesthetic experience. Recent design techniques and technology have resulted in ‘thinner’ architecture comprised of many layered surfaces, the impact of which we will explore and evaluate through architectural elements such as fenestration, volume and surface. Using contemporary tools, we will analyze canonical volumes with investigative authority. The seminar will review the development and history of interiors and subsequent sectional drawing and representation. Emphasizing volumetric precision and monumental interiors, students will evaluate strategies of existing volumes and transform and develop techniques for utilizing surface distortions (pochè). The seminar will combine lectures, discussion and design workshops to abstractly focus on the dynamics of channeling multiple crowds, the sequencing of volumes, choreographed junctures, and orchestrating a spectacle. Through the experimentation across multiple mediums and the fabrication of large physical models, the objective is to provide tools to imagine and represent with precision and dexterity the depth and detail of the three-dimensional form. The seminar will review precedents of mass and volume, including a range of typologies highly dependant on volumetric organization, from the intimate to the civic and cultural scale. We will review circulation methods such as the strict structure of the enfilade; a set of rooms formally aligned with each other, usually on axis and generating vistas/viewing corridors rather than physical corridors, typical in grand architecture from the Baroque period onwards to visionary work both past and present.

Students are expected to explore through various digital and physical strategies how to describe an abstracted geometric volume both in two and three dimensions and to hone the techniques required to oscillate between them. The consistent development of a refined intention and the high quality of the resultant artifact is paramount. In addition to intermittent lectures, discussions and readings, working in teams of 2-3 you will design a self-supporting model with an interior volume. (the contemporary box within a box, approximately 2’x2’x2’) The interior must clearly connect to the exterior in three or more places. Topics of interest are the clarity of intention, deliberate design of the poché (the space between the two surfaces), command of hierarchy, and development of the surfaces, specifically the interior surface at multiple scales, from the intricate to the grand. The volume should be physically built using surfaces. The final projects will be on public display including both the final artifact and a concise written description.
EXCESSIVE VOLUME

Week 01
August 27th
Introduction: The Potential of Volume

Week 02
September 3rd
No Class

Week 03
September 10th
Survey of Volumetric Development

Reading List:
Elias Cornell, Going Inside Architecture: A tentative Synopsis for a History of Interior

Week 04
September 17th
Sectional Development

Reading List:

Task 01: Select an excessive volume. Digitally model interior volume, review selected models on screen.

Week 05
September 24th
Representing the Interior, Inside-Out

Reading List:
Venturi, Robert “The Inside and The Outside” in Complexity and Contradiction, MOMA New York, 1966 pp. 70-87
Sigfried Giedion, “Space, Time and Architecture”

Task 02: (pin-up) Remodel with refinement, highlight through analytical drawings and design a section areas of interest. Be concise about describing primary and secondary volumes and transitional moments.

Week 06
October 1st
Descriptive Translation


Task 03: Digitally remodel volume with refinement and begin transformation of selected attribute.

Week 07
October 8th
Geometry of the Void (interior figure) and Transformation

Preston Scott Cohen, “Regular Anomalies, The case of the Tubular Embrasure at the Sacristy of San Carlo ai Catinari”, AA Files 41, pp 46-56

Task 04: (pin-up) Transform Volume, unroll the digital volume. Experiment with various geometries that could be used to unfold the volume. (the developable surface, triangulated mesh, etc…)
EXCESSIVE VOLUME

Schedule

Week 08
October 15th
Task 05: Continue development of volume in digital and physical model

Week 09
October 22nd
MidTerm Presentation

Week 10
October 29th
Sequence, Enfilade, Aperture

Reading list:
Robin Evans, “Figures, Doors and Passages,” in Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays, pp 55-91
Beatrice Colomina, “Intimacy and Spectacle, the Interior of Loos”, in Strategies of Architectural Thinking, CIAU, 1994 pp. 68-89

Task: Develop project based on mid-term feedback

Week 11
November 5th
The Potential of Poche

Reading list:
Rudoph Wittkower, “Architectural Principals in the Age of Humanism”, Palladio’s Geometry, The Villas
Greg Lynn, “Multiplicitous and Inorganic Bodies” Assemblage 19, pg. 33-42

Task: (pin-up) Development of Poche

Week 12
November 12th
NO Class

Week 13
November 19th
Contemporary Problem

Reading list:

Week 14
November 26th
Work Session/ Fabrication

Week 15
December 3rd
Final Review/ Presentation (tentative)
ARCH 5590-0030 Bldg Tech Seminar
The Ohio State University, Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture
Fall 2012 Balliet

Requirements:
Complete all assigned readings before the associated class. Create and submit 3 highlighted points from the reading selection for discussion. Students will be asked to sometimes lead and participate in discussions.
Design, development and completion of final project and written description is required.

Grading:
20% Class Participation, Discussion Points
20% Weekly Project Development
60% Final Project and Written Description (500-1000 words)

*Readings and Tasks should be prepared for the date of the class they are listed under.