

OPTION STUDIOS

In Spring 2022 there will be a new set of second year option studios 48:205. The studios offer opportunities to explore differing disciplinary interests. There will be a preference process with an online form issued on Nov 12th. Second year students are asked to submit three preferences with the reasoning. Studio numbers will be balanced and the rosters will be published on Dec 1st.

2. untangling the threads_stefani danes

“Creativity is not a gift, it’s a habit.” -- Twyla Tharp, dancer and choreographer

The habit of creative thinking is at the heart of the design process. And the process is what enables us to turn an inspiration into action or an idea into architectural form. This course explores the premise that **the quality of our process defines the quality of our project**. The focus of the studio is on learning to engage more fully in the process, reach further for inspiration, and navigate more strategically through complex problems. The goal of the studio is to enable you to build the capability and confidence to undertake the larger-scale projects in advanced studios and to enjoy the experience of creating meaningful and memorable works of architecture.

The design process is a profound experience of growth and learning. Growth is a spiral process, doubling back on itself, reassessing and regrouping. By looking deeply into how we find our way through this spiral, we see ourselves in new ways. Designing challenges our assumptions, opens our eyes to the world in new ways, and challenges us to commit ourselves to an unproven future. In the course, we will look critically at the most common models of the design process and why they don’t work. We will see how adopting a better understanding of the design process can overcome the most frequent design obstacles: **open the process to more imaginative ideas, produce better decisions earlier in the process, and reduce stress and anxiety**. The course is constructed to enable you to learn and practice this approach as well as to reflect on your experience.

The primary studio project will be an **International Fabric Arts Design Center** dedicated to the creation, study, and exhibition of contemporary works in cloth and fiber. **The project invites you to respond to the questions of how process is evidenced in a final work and how the design of the workspace contributes to the process of artistic production**. Shorter exercises focus on specific aspects of the design process and task with problems that are limited in scale but not in the issues they provoke.



With the idea that studio learning is itself a process of dialogues, the course pedagogy is individualized and dialectic, based on shared goals, trust, and transparency. It is shaped by democratic, humanistic, and contextual aspirations:

- **Democratic:** the belief that design matters to society, its well-being and progress, and our common sanity
- **Humanistic:** the belief that design must care for people, at all levels, in their common and individual everyday, and for the environment as our living habitat
- **Contextual:** the belief that design connects us to what we share – our common ground, history, and each other.



1. jared abraham
2. stefani danes
3. eddy man kim
4. steve lee
5. tommy yang



Images from the ECS Studio, S19

