

48205 Elaboration II

This undergraduate design studio elaborates upon design fundamentals developed thus far and draws attention to architecture's material domain. As part of the core design studio sequence, materiality in architecture is mapped onto concerns and methods central to the education of an architect. Materiality is explored broadly, touching upon culture, technology, politics, and ecology, and is linked to methods of construction and material systems. Materiality foregrounds material affordance where both the qualitative and performative potential of material systems are explored.

The studio positions architecture as a cultural and discursive practice that uses design to synthesize a host of concerns. It asserts the centrality of materials and methods of construction in the development architectural ideas. To borrow a quote from the artist Olafur Eliasson, the studio seeks to "celebrate the area around where ideas come". It positions itself as a laboratory for experimentation where design is a self-critical and reflective process of questioning, reasoning, and testing. The studio explores representation as means of imagination and communication and relies upon curiosity, critical thinking, and discourse to investigate how materially sensitive design processes inform and substantiate architectural ideas.

Photo Credit:

The making of Conical Intersect, 1975 by Gordon Matta Clark (photographer: Harry Gruyaert/Magnum Photos)