

EPHEMERAL_enduring

Performance Architecture for a New Permanent and Seasonal Theater for the Festival d'Avignon

Hal Hayes

QUESTIONS

ASOS students will collaborate with Drama and Masters of Arts Management (MAM) students to study & design a new seasonal and permanent theater for the Festival d'Avignon. We will meet with festival directors, the professional design team working on the real project and work directly with famed French theater designer Jean-Guy Lecat.

During the first third of the semester inter-disciplinary teams of Architecture, Drama & MAM students will conceptualize & design the seasonal summer venue, further development of which will be done by professional architecture & engineering partners in France. During the remainder of the semester Architecture students will conceive individual designs for the permanent theater in collaboration with the Drama and MAM students.

PROMPT

Provence was one of the earliest provinces of the Roman Empire, and as such, was the site of extractive industries of the classical era. These sites, which we will visit, are now home to arts and cultural organizations that transcend their original purpose, to become enduringly meaningful in a post-industrial context. This studio will explore ways that this and other similar sites can transition from an industrial past to a sustainable future.

CONTEXT

This is a developer-driven project to create a marina with a theatre that supports and catalyzes the performing arts festival. The site is at the end of an island in the Rhone River in Avignon. A temporary theatre will precede the permanent venue.

- Winter 2023: Develop a preliminary concept for the project to briefly explore the possibilities and market the project to potential investors.
- Spring 2023: Detailed project design concept.
- Summer 2023: Construction of the temporary theatre with the project architect.
- 2024: Detailed design of the permanent theater
- 2025: Construction of the permanent theater

The main issues for the students to solve are the type of structure, choice of the materials, acoustic treatments, thermal comfort and sustainability. Cost will also be a key factor



Festival d'Avignon - La FabricA, "Orlando ou l'Impatience" by Olivier Py ©Christophe Raynaud de Lage



Modern Architectural Masterpieces of Provence

PROGRAM

This site is the tip of an island in the Rhone River south of the Pont de l'Europe bridge. Noise from these bridge is a critical design issue to address, as is the "Mistral", the south of France's strong seasonal wind which can reach speeds of 130km/hour. Other issues are:

- **Seasonal Venue Design:** An outdoor waterfront theater primarily for dance (Weeks 1-4)
- **Permanent Theater Design:** A fully enclosed flexible venue to host a variety of different performances during the annual festival and year-round (Weeks 5-14) Seating capacity of 450-500. The seats may be on stage level and must be flexible to have different forms.
 - The space must be naturally ventilated,
 - River water may be utilized for air cooling.
 - Acoustic damping to 25/30dB.
 - Exterior wall surfaces for projections or light shows.
 - Net-Zero performance with onsite electricity generation.
 - Appropriate theatre technology to allow flexibility of performance
 - Consider a campus environment of multiple smaller buildings for separate activities
 - Performance production facilities
 - Audience amenities



The Festival d'Avignon is the largest and one of the most important contemporary performing arts events in the world, transforming the city's architectural patrimony into a wide variety of historic, surprising and awe-inspiring performance venues for tens of thousands of patrons. This project envisions two purpose-built performance venues occupying the same site: a temporary venue for dance performance for 2023 and a permanent flexible venue for a variety of performance types.



Hal Hayes, AIA

Optional Field Trip+ Funding

London, Paris, Avignon & the south of France, March 3rd-12th. Cost estimate is \$2,500. A stipend of the CFA Theater Architecture fund of approximately \$2,000 will be available to all students (covering all transportation, accommodation and admissions). Those with unmet financial need are also eligible for Altenhof Scholarships. Proactive students may also apply for CMU Crowdfunding, which Professor Hayes will advise and support.

Additional Faculty

- Dick Block (Associate Head, CMU School of Drama)
- Cindy Limauro (Professor of Lighting, CMU Schools of Drama & Architecture)
- Jessica Bowser Acric (Director, Heinz College Master of Arts)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This studio will emphasize the use of hand sketching, physical models and iteration of design at varying scales and degrees of resolution. Students must also expand their mastery of digital and parametric tools for both analysis and conceptual/morphological design development.

This studio is part of the Theater Architecture concentration, and is the result of a direct invitation to participate in this real project from M. Lecat & the Festival d'Avignon.

Co-Requisites; (co-taught by Hal Hayes & Dick Block, Drama Assoc. Head & Scenic Design Prof.)

62:408 - Mini 3, (6 units), Theater Architecture I

62:418 - Mini 4 (3 units), Theater Architecture II

Selective; 48:587 (9 units), Architectural Lighting (Cindy Limauro)