

Research

Designing With Models

In 2011 the 3rd edition of the book on process modeling making was published by John Wiley and Sons. Edited over the past 2 years, this edition continued the previous focus on design iterations and exploration issues and privileges their presentation. In addition the book include much new work that represents the bridge between digital and analog model making from many cutting edge professional practices. The book also devotes an entire chapter to the digital fabrication of physical models as well as updating information and adding many new student projects.

Cultural Transformations

A paper that explores the physical impact on the US urban landscape of immigrant populations as they import culture and make adjustments to the host culture. The study is specifically related to strip culture and how it has played host to this influx and become shaped by it as the most visible field of physical impact. The paper was accepted to a national ACSA conference.

Design Build

Space for Behavioral Exhibition

The project is the result of a design / build studio experience for the 2nd year graduate students and was designed and built in the courtyard space of the architecture building (Lee Hall) over the course of 7 weeks using standard wood production framing materials and techniques. The work offers a multi layered space for public displays of behavior and was designed as a response to the play "The Man Who Was Thursday," a play that was used for the Russian constructivists stage sets. While it is not intended as a direct analog of the play, the work draws metaphorical lines between itself and the interwoven, shifting ground of the play. The language of the work is related to constructivist assemblages, the De Stijl movement and the ridged geometry of its siting.

As a three dimensional construct, its is not dependent on a clearly defined set of bounded spaces. Rather, it is made up of a porous collection of surfaces and planes that describe neither object nor container, and resists attempts to understand the space through these polarities of interpretation.

As a pedagogical tool, the design / build experience offers a model in strong contrast to the traditional desk based project. With this model not only is the opportunity for collaborative efforts multiplied but in shifting the paradigm towards "making," a number of new connections are invoked. One of the primary connections is that of erasing the artificial division between design and execution. With it, process or becoming, a pervasive but possibly invisible condition, comes into play as a central force. While it is ostensibly the goal of completion that drives the project, the evolutionary state of process is far more important, forcing the on going ingestion of lessons large and small.

Inflatables

The design build experience was a focus for the studio work and used to transmit a number of experiences both in terms of type and method. The inflatables project explored the resultant formal constructs that were derivative of another set of structural parameters and were able to respond to lightness and movement in the process. Students created various situational installations that engaged the site and became interactive experiences that tested theoretical behaviors.

Practice

Grant Park Auto Lofts

The project created a narrow village space in-between existing low scale industrial buildings and new construction. The internal street of the project connects between two established neighborhood corridors and resides as a secondary layer of development to the commercial revitalization along Memorial Drive adjacent to it. The space unfolds in three layers in a compressed experience of time developed urban fabric. The initial phase was completed in 2004. Planning for the second phase initiated in 2009.

Annie Street House

A speculative design build construct was designed in 2010 for a small lot in downtown Atlanta. The project uses certain formal devices such as folding in its formation but must respond to the constraints of production housing budgets, delivery times and program expectations. Internally the space maintains an open and flexible plan. The start date for construction has been delayed several times in reaction to the acutely weak housing market.

