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Arch. 4011 Architectural Design V
Fall 2007

Eco Information Center/Faculty Residences

Introduction

The focus of this studio will be the development of a design strategy that incorporates advanced sustainable building techniques with an equally well-developed sense of aesthetic expression. The dawning of the “green revolution” and appreciation for an eco friendly methodology of building brings us to a crossroads of contemporary design discussion. When radically different parameters of solar capture/shielding, wind, material choice, etc. become the major drivers of design expression, how do they react with the prevailing cultural context of architectural style—modern, traditional or regional? While the simplistic approach of adapting traditional typologies to sustainable contingencies is certainly not the answer, likewise, as intelligent and necessary as sustainable parameters are, a dwelling is a place of human habitation, dimension and scale. It is the objective of this course to examine these fundamental principles on all levels (technical, aesthetic, philosophical) in search of a synthesis appropriate to its time. We will design two concurrent projects based on these issues: an Eco Information Center located on the Tech campus and a cluster of sustainable faculty residences located in Home Park.

Projects

Eco Information Center

After the conclusion of the Solar Decathlon Competition in Washington, DC this fall, it is proposed that G.T.’s entry be exhibited in the Eco Commons area adjacent to the Architectural Building. It will be accompanied by an information center explaining both the Decathlon’s specific mission and the global issues affecting sustainable construction worldwide. The Center must be a signature design drawing the public into a graphic presentation of its mission.

Suggested Program

Lobby: 300 SF

General Information: 250 SF

Exhibit Gallery: 800 SF

1 Office @150 SF, Conference/Classroom @300 SF

Circulation: as required

Total: 800 SF min. to 2400 SF max. to be determined by class research
