OVERVIEW

This independent study workshop explores the design-build as a process between architecture, environment and community. Design-build work, as service learning, combines active community participation with pedagogical objectives of reflection, collaboration, and hands-on experimentation. In this context, the workshop seeks to understand how designing a “kiosk” links thinking, making, and sustaining.

To open and sustain a dialogue between university and community, we will design and construct a studio kiosk for the local nonprofit Studio Percussion, which provides music education to the Alachua community. In addition to the site’s physical properties, meetings with client members and charrettes determining initial designing planning will provide the context for the design-build process while the use of recyclable materials will further an environmental objective for the project proposal. One focal point will be the mobility and component assemblage of the kiosk as a way to bridge making with functionality and expression. Quoting Donald Kunze in his Commentary on Architecture Education, “two arts – one manual (poesis) and the other providential (theoria) are required for the architect to function with a sense of reality of the human realm (praxis).”

RETHINKING DESIGN-BUILD

In the spirit of independent study, the workshop provides a forum to rethink design-build in a pedagogical and community-oriented context using the context of making as a binary thread. The loosely held typology of the studio kiosk provides a realm of imagination for new discoveries of physical form and repurposing the identity of both materials and the full-scale construct. The design-build process filters a systematic method of conceptual “construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction.”

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY
http://studiopercussion.org/

OBJECTIVES

- To understand and develop a multi-disciplinary approach to design-build work.
- To participate in collaborative activities and discussions with members of the community.
- To develop an ability to select, adapt, and apply methodologies and theoretical approaches related to design-build activity.
- To pursue research methods and design process that reduce disconnections between design and construction.
- To integrate architectural process and cultural values through the design-build approach.
- To synthesize analysis, design process, and implementation.
- To develop graphic, written, and oral communication techniques that integrate aspects of the design-build approach.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in client meetings and design-build activities on-site.
Written summary of the process.
Documentation and preparation of a booklet.

SCHEDULE

April: Material Exploration / Conceptual design [thinking] group
<built work>
April-May: Dialogue about process and construction of Kiosk [making] individual-group
<paper due>
May: Meet with client
June-July: Construction of kiosk
August: Preparation of booklet [reflecting] group
<booklet due>

BIBLIOGRAPHY (will continue to be expanded)

Wodiczko, Krzysztof, Public Address, Minneapolis: Walker Art Center, 1992

PROJECTS

Bradner Gardens, Seattle, Washington / Howard S. Wright Design/Build Studio
Cheticamp Project, Design-Build Labs, Dalhousie University,
http://architectureandplanning.dal.ca/architecture/visitors/design_build.shtml