

The New University

[NOTE: This studio is formally linked to the Seminar A6459 taught by Jonathan R. Cole
Studio participants will be required to enroll in the seminar.]

Introduction

In this studio we will design a new university.

Jonathan Cole argues in *The Great American University*, "...the American research university is considered by many to be the world's more powerful engine of innovation and discovery; yet at the same time it is widely misunderstood and even in danger of losing its preeminence."

And **if**, in fact, "...universities **are** at the center of dramatic societal/global changes; (then perhaps) architecture can help us think concretely about, envision, or even guide those changes."

This studio and seminar could be thought of as two sides of a coin (and that the issue on the table is quite fundamental). This studio will speculate on ways in which the new university will possess a new "architecture" in every sense of the term. Together with the seminar, the intention is to explore and reimagine that architecture, and its role in shaping knowledge now and in the future.

Both studio and seminar are primarily aimed at informed speculation and conceptual risk-taking at a moment in history that has already witnessed vast changes in the educational, institutional, and intellectual landscape. This will be a unique form of integrated teaching and learning that will use the frame of architecture to both re-conceptualize and re-invent The New University.

Given this urgency, students might be tempted to forego the travel studios that will be offered, and choose to think and work much closer to home.

The New University

This New University with its new concepts for programs and departments assumes new forms of learning, new technologies, new cross-disciplinary forms of knowledge, learning and research.

Some key questions for the studio are:

What would be the form of this new university?

What would be housed in the building/buildings?

How would these buildings perform to suit the new endeavors?

Architecture and the campus plan are thought of as leading the organization of key universities; could architecture galvanize new programs of knowledge into new configurations?

The architecture of the university from, "Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia to McKim Mead and White's Columbia, the land grant universities of the late 1800's to the new frontiers of "big science" after World War II, belongs to a discursive field in which knowledge interacts with technology, religion, capital and the state." How will this new university centered on specific areas of research and technology continue to be an "open source" device, and how does public space figure into it's overall plan? Is the notion of public space different from these previous models?

Will the "parts to the whole"; the default campus university model, still apply?

Or

Would these new alliances and relationships of cross-disciplinary working form new configurations and form a completely new modality?

Would this new university produce architecture of alternative concepts and spatial configurations?

What are the spatial implications of new ways of working, learning, and knowledge-production.

What is the effect in considering new technologies, the data campus, dispersed small incubators, “start-ups” and “creative capital” on the components of the new university and building scale?

Site and Travel

The studio will travel to Harlem where Columbia University’s Manhattanville Campus at 125th Street will be the site of study.

For the Kinne Travel week of March 7-11; we will visit Seattle, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and LA to tour comparative and informative architectural projects; specifically buildings which embody similar interdisciplinary production and research.

Program

The program for The New University will be an addition to a preeminent research university.

Understanding that many fields require a specific physical format, spatial or geo-physical configurations in order to conduct research; the new building/buildings will form a new university to facilitate a sciences liberal arts campus geared toward collaboration, innovation, and cross-disciplinary pollination.

A main provocation of this studio is that architecture must respond to the immediate needs of the developing fields in creating space for research and work to be done; while at the same time allow for the flexibility to retool, recombine, merge, and stretch accommodating developing uses, research and processes.

The design, configuration and position of public space have been a main tenant of the physical plan of the university and thus a forum for collaboration, social expression and exhibition. This new university must include a strategy for it’s public space.

Studio Format

Design work will progress concurrently with the seminar. Teams will research critical campus, building and planning examples with their different spatial configurations and other types of specific formal spaces for teaching, learning and working.

Parallel to this research will be a series of short formal modeling exercises investigating possible formal concepts and their physical attributes.

For the Final Review, students will present their concept strategy along with a detailed development at the site using drawings, models, mock-ups, and large-scale sections. Physical models will be the preferred form of representation throughout the semester.

The studio will meet Monday and Thursday 1:30 – 6:30 PM.

Laurie Hawkinson will be in studio Monday and Thursday; TA, Ivy Hume will join on Thursday.

The linked seminar will meet Monday 11-1 PM led by Jonathan R. Cole.

(See syllabus for Seminar A6459)

The first studio meeting will be Friday, January 22, 2 PM in 412 Avery.

The New University
Schedule: Spring 2016

JANUARY				
Week 1		Studio Presentation + Introduction		
W	20	Studio Presentations and Lottery, 2-6 PM	Wood	LH/JRC
F	22	First Studio Meeting, 2-6 PM Assignment 1: Spatial Types and Frankenstein/Type Assignment (Teams) + Busting Blocks Milling Assignment	412 Avery	LH/IH (JRC)
Week 2		Where Research Universities Have Come From and Where They Are Today		
M	25	Seminar, 11-1 PM	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	25	Studio, Portfolio Review, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	28	Studio Review, Assignment 1 Assignment 2: Busting Blocks Pt. 2; Model in Site Study		LH/IH
FEBRUARY				
Week 3		Building as Campus – Education City		
M	1	Seminar, 11-1PM Reinhold Martin, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	1	Studio, Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	4	Studio Review, Assignment 2 Assignment 3: Frankenstein Plans and Sections		LH/IH
Week 4		Toward a More Perfect University		
M	8	Seminar, 11-1PM	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	8	Studio, Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	11	Studio Review, Assignment 3 Begin Large Scale Model Study		LH/IH
Week 5		The Global University – Building Strategy		
M	15	Seminar, 11-1 PM Kenneth Prewitt, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	15	Studio, Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	18	Studio Review, Large Scale Model Study Building Model Study		LH/IH

Week 6		Architecture of Science – Concept Development		
M	22	Seminar, 11-1PM Stuart Firestein, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	22	Studio/ Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	25	Studio/ Structural Concept Pinup, 1:30-6:30 PM Rob Otani, Thornton Thomasetti, guest		LH/IH
Week 7		Case Study: The Earth Institute – Midterm Prep		
M	29	Seminar, 11-1 PM Peter Schlosser, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	29	Studio/ Individual Dry Runs for Midterm prep		LH/IH
MARCH				
Th	3	Studio/ MIDTERM		LH/ IH JRC
Week 8		Reimagining the Campus – Kinne Travel		
M	7	Seminar 11-1 PM	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	7	Depart for Kinne Trip		
M-F	7-11	Kinne Travel: Seattle, San Francisco, Palo Alto and Los Angeles		
Week 9		Spring Break		
Week 10		Multidisciplinary Research		
M	21	Seminar, 11-1PM Peter Bearman, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	21	Studio/ Desk Crits – Scale Development		LH
Th	24	Pinup: Post-midterm Strategy Revisions, models		LH/IH
Week 11		Academic Freedom and Free Inquiry		
M	28	Seminar, 11-1 PM Akeel Bigrami, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	28	Studio/ Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	31	Pinup: Model development, Structural Tutorial Rob Otani, Thornton Thomasetti, guest		LH/IH

APRIL				
Week 12		University as the Public Sphere – Mind Brain Institute		
M	4	Seminar, 11-1 PM Thomas Jessell, guest	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	4	Studio/ Desk Crits - Structural Development, 1:30-6:30 PM		IH
Th	7	Pinup: Large Structural Sections Rob Otani, Thornton Thomasetti, guest		LH/IH
Week 13				
M	11	Seminar, 11-1 PM	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	11	Studio/ Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	14	Studio/ Desk Crits, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH/IH
Week 14				
M	18	Seminar, 11-1 PM	408 Avery	JRC/LH
M	18	Studio/ Individual Project Review Storyboard Final Presentation, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Th	21	Studio/ Individual Project Review Storyboard Final Presentation, 1:30-6:30 PM		LH
Week 15		Finals Week		
W	27	Final Review, NOON-6 PM		LH/IH JRC