This seminar focuses on conceptualizing and constructing space in more natural, non-urban settings; on why and what we should and can learn from local conditions; on how architecture can demonstrate a much deeper level of responsiveness to local landscapes and indigenous cultures within climate zones ranging from desert to tropical, temperate to arctic; on architecture that learns from the past, not reviving but reinterpreting traditional forms, building materials, and methods of construction; on ecological sensitivity as ‘much a matter of practicality, as it is of aesthetics’ - as argued by Glenn Murcutt, Australian architect and 2002 Pritzker laureate.

Can architecture be found in place? Can it be shaped by the very elements, processes, and systems that shape place?

Is it here that true sustainability dwells?

Open to both undergraduate and graduate students, this seminar combines lectures, readings, discussions, a set of written and visual assignments (individual and group), at least one guest presentation, and a possible field trip.