FURNITURISATION: A TYPOLGY OF THE IN-BETWEEN

Instructor: Linda Zimmer
Time: T-Th 2:00-3:20 Room 206
3 credits
Graded or P/NP
This course counts as an elective/seminar for Interior Architecture and Architecture Students and is intended to aid intermediate and advanced students to understand and develop details for studio projects.

According to Wiktionary to “furniturise” is to ‘make into furniture’. In “furniturised” buildings, functions typically provided by loose furniture are integrated seamlessly into the architecture in the form of built-in elements, giving the designer more opportunities to extend larger spatial/conceptual ideas while supporting everyday activities at human scale.

This seminar we examine a typology of interior elements that fall in-between the scale of architecture and moveable furniture. Types we will study may include seating niches and platforms, reception stations, social stairs and so on. “In between” types are driven by varied spatial, behavioral, and technical factors. Many evolved to welcome and/or direct people, to enhance social interaction and to support new ways of working/communicating and new form language is continually emerging as designers adapt to new social norms, and/or technology. As we begin to analyze existing and seek out new “types” we will also be examining the driving influences of form including ergonomics, technical integration and codes that lead to similarities and differences.

The course combines careful study of furniturised elements in recent campus buildings and public spaces in Eugene with images of inventive designs published on-line. As in past typological studies lead by designers such as the “in-types” research at Cornell University https://www.intypes.cornell.edu/ and Rob Krier’s seminal “Elements of Architecture” students will work independently to find and analyze precedents and together to discuss and sort their work into named sets and subsets of each type. Weekly campus observations and literature searches will be balanced with in class discussion and pin-ups.

At the end of the course students will have
• developed a working understanding of design typology
• contributed to an emerging graphic reference
• used selected type examples to guide them in developing details for their own studio work