ISTANBUL URBAN INFILL

Course: Architecture 484/584
Term: Fall 2023
Instructor: Professor Mark L. Gillem, PhD, RA, FAIA, FAICP with support from Hesham Issa, PhD, RA, International AIA and Barry Gordon, AICP
CRN and Credits: CRN: 10293/10338; Credits: 6
Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 13:00-16:50 (Mondays are independent workdays)

Studio Overview. The globalization of architectural practice has created opportunities for practitioners to design elsewhere, but with these new opportunities come challenges associated with designing from a distance and without full knowledge of the peoples, cultures, and clients for whom one is designing. Successful designers working across cultures use a research-based approach that links cultural awareness to design sensibility. They incorporate strategies based on an understanding the culture and context of the host country and a respect for its indigenous settings, climate, materials, and building traditions while simultaneously inserting their own innovative or creative ideas and professional or cultural identity in a hybrid modality. To learn about cross-cultural design, students in this studio will design a mixed-use infill housing project in the historic urban core of Istanbul, Turkey. Istanbul is the largest cultural and financial center of Turkey and bridges Asia with Europe from a cultural and geographical standpoint. It is a modern state with considerable traditional heritage. During the term, students will work individually to develop their program, site plans, floor plans, structural plans, elevations, sections, renderings, energy models, and Low Impact Development and LEED models (with a goal of LEED Platinum).

Studio Approach. Instruction will include regular class discussions, small group reviews, and “desk” crits either virtually or in-person. Occasional guest speakers will participate virtually as well to give students a broader understanding of the design context. An optional (but highly encouraged) on-site charrette will be held in Istanbul during Zero Week (depart on 16 September and return on 24 September). While in Istanbul, students will research the host city and the site and learn from local architects and faculty from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University’s Department of Architecture. UO students will also interact with local architectural students to exchange knowledge about the site and the host city. They will also conduct site analysis, study relevant codes, prepare a design vision and culturally-appropriate patterns, and develop preconcept designs. A generous grant from the University of Oregon Urban Design Lab will cover airfare, lodging, and group meals for all students while in Istanbul. If interested students want to participate in the on-site charrette, they must submit an assessment package via Qualtrics (https://oregon.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eNkJEFQaS2dsZmK) by Monday, 19 June 2023 at 2359 (11:59 PM) that contains the following: 1) portfolio; 2) transcript; 3) proof of a valid passport with at least six months left after 1 October 2023; and 4) a 250-word statement of interest that addresses why they want to take this studio, what international travel experience they have had, and what skills they have in digital design and energy modeling.