

Monolith Urbanism: Tectonic Experiments in North Portland



Instructors:
Daniel Toole &
Luke Anderson

UO Portland
Fall 2023
ARCH 484/584
MWF 1-5p

Images: Per Kirkeby "Brick
Sculptures" 1989, Donald Judd
"Untitled" 1980, Tadao Ando's Azuma
House 1975, Arthur Erickson's Smith
House II 1964

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the realm of current construction practices, composite wall and floor assemblies make up the majority of building production, from single family residences to high rises, and everything in between. Structure is hidden for life safety and cost purposes due to constantly evolving building codes, and the continual increase in the cost of materials and labor. These trends, along with the ever-evolving industry of mass produced, off-the-shelf, thin sheet goods, have driven buildings to be clad and composed in an excess of more and more synthetic materials with varying levels of environmental benefit, durability, or cultural value.

This studio will seek to return architecture to its material basis, reflecting on the capacity of individual materials to create innate architectural languages that shape structure, light, space, and atmosphere. These material experiments will be predominantly mono-material and monolithic to create a focused inquiry into their individual tectonic and expressive capacities resulting in students developing their own spatial and structural vocabulary. The monolithic will be explored through research and discussion, with an emphasis on physical modelling and drawing to further investigate and represent the tactile and atmospheric potential of the materials.

PROCESS

Following a brief investigation into materials, the studio will begin with the design and fabrication of a monolith. Through this exercise, we will develop a relationship with the tectonic, expressive, figurative, and emotional potential of a single building material. Students will select from one of four materials/construction systems commonly used in current architectural production to focus on for the studio. This singular focus will provide creative constraint in the research, testing, design, and fabrication of a monolith.

Following the development of a monolith, each student will be assigned their own site and program within a North Portland neighborhood. Students will be asked to translate the spatial and structural order of their monolith in response to the demands of their program and site. As a collection of transformed monoliths, we will study how these inherently individual architectural languages interact in the urban ensemble, and inform a transfigured possible future for the neighborhood.



DANIEL TOOLE

Raised in Portland, Daniel received a B. Arch from the University of Oregon in 2008, presenting his thesis in the newly finished White Stag Block.

Daniel founded Daniel Toole Architecture (DTA) in 2020. With over 15 years of experience, he has designed award-winning private residences, multifamily, and cultural buildings, as well as landscapes and public spaces independently and with various internationally recognized offices including Rick Joy Architects in Tucson, Barkow Leibinger Architects in Berlin, Perkins + Will in Seattle, and Allied Works Architecture in Portland.

A registered Architect in the states of Oregon and Washington, he received his Bachelor's of Architecture from the University of Oregon and his Master's of Architecture in Urban Design from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He completed additional studies at Columbia University in New York City and Paris, as well as a DAAD research fellowship at the Technical University of Berlin. He has received numerous other design awards and fellowships.



LUKE ANDERSON

Luke received a B.S. in Architecture from The Ohio State University and an M.Arch from Yale University where he received the H.I. Feldman Prize. He worked in the Portland and New York offices of Allied Works Architecture and in Seattle for Heliotrope Architects. While at Allied Works, he worked on a wide range of institutional projects and led the product and furniture design for award-winning restaurants in New York and London. While in New York, he was a founding member of the architectural collective Citygroup. Their work has been exhibited at the Oslo Architecture Triennale and they were awarded the New Practices New York Prize in 2020. In 2022, Luke co-founded Anderson Su Architecture, with projects in the San Juan Islands, the Columbia River Gorge, and the Oregon Coast.

He has held teaching positions at Columbia University GSAPP, Cooper Union, University of Cincinnati DAAP, and Yale University, and is a registered architect in Oregon and Washington.