UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
COLLEGE OF DESIGN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

ADAPTIVE REUSE
SPRING 2024
INSTRUCTOR: BRIAN EMERICK, AIA

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will study and explore the discipline of Adaptive Reuse drawing on Brian Emerick's 25 years of experience specializing in this typology at Emerick Architects.

Adaptive Reuse involves reimagining existing and sometimes obsolete, buildings for new purposes. Essentially recycling on the biggest scale, this act of stewardship of our built resources is one of the most significant ways we can address a sustainable future. While the buildings are usually old and often historic, the approach to saving these resources includes a much wider range of creativity and solutions than a pure Historic Preservation project.

These types of projects are often more complex and challenging than building new, or strictly preserving. They require innovative, multi-disciplinary solutions to make them successful in the context of layered time and storytelling. When skillfully executed, they also have the potential to become some of our most inspiring and meaningful contributions to the built environment. They have the power to surprise and delight current and future generations with their travel through time and community to remain relevant today.

Using examples from Brian's practice in Oregon, as well as historic precedent, this course will bring an informed perspective to this emerging discipline, including field trips to projects in the Portland area.

OVERLAND WAREHOUSE

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HISTORIC PHOTO: Originally built in 1889, the building was later converted to Chinese tenement housing by the Suey Sing organization.

Behind quality design & craftsmanship, the building was 85% occupied & contributing to the neighborhood within a month of completion.