Fundamentals of Sustainable Design

CRN 10465- Thursdays 4:00–6:50pm in 279 Lawrence Hall, 4 credits (new TK2, MARCH TK1, PhD opt)
Instructor: Professor Alison G. Kwok, PhD, RA, FAIA, LEED AP, CPHC; akwok@uoregon.edu

The seminar calls upon you to engage in theoretical and historical ideas that shape architecture and contemporary sustainable design. We will explore models, frameworks, tools, metrics, and techniques to quantify and qualify these models. The course will meet once a week and requires regular engagement with the material. In-class time will generally be devoted to actions rather than being lecture-based, though guest lectures by colleagues will be featured. Students will learn by doing. The course is intended to expand your ethos, design approach, and individual and collaborative practices to help develop and guide your practice philosophy in sustainability. This foundation will be guided by readings, presentations, use of tools and calculators that will help support your future design work in studio and practice.

Five key learning outcomes:
1. Initiate critical discussion of sustainability theory, which builds upon the variety of experiences each student brings from her/his own life and past education through an analysis of sustainability in practice and theory as well as a critical formulation of definitions of sustainability.
2. Understand the values and themes of architectural education with a focus on sustainability that is central to the University of Oregon curriculum through a review and discussion of departmental focus areas.
3. Increase collaboration abilities to work in small groups, and effectively communicate oral presentations supported by visual aids, and think and write articulately about architectural issues through discussions, debates, formal presentations, and writing.
4. Understand and implement the AIA Framework for Design Excellence, the metrics, and narratives to apply to future design studios;
5. Question assumptions and establish values for future professional work and initiate potential research agendas.

2019 AIA COTE Top Ten Award: Oregon Zoo Education Center, Portland Zoo, OR by OPSIS. Image courtesy OPSIS. Illustrating that “Small Things Matter,” the Zoo’s 1.7 million annual visitors experience interactive exhibits that demonstrate how actions can help maintain a healthy planet.