

09-21-10

Proposal for Spring 2011 Seminar

Forrest Fulton

Syntheses for Future Practices

The seminar will offer a forum to judge our vast and long experiment in innovation and synthesize a new set of ideas for the practice of architecture and design. Multi-disciplinary theoretical texts and built/unbuilt work from the primitive to the contemporary which address relationships between ideas and reality, nature and technology, power and politics, the local and the global, nostalgia and utopia, preservation and duration will be of prime interest. We will reread this history in the context of the present in order to project future practices.

The format of the course will be a series of discussions of these texts and cases. Discussions will follow presentations by groups of students and the instructor. Students will be expected to develop a revelatory presentation, participate in discussion, and submit either an essay on some aspect of a text or analytical drawings on a built/unbuilt work.

The broad nature of this seminar reflects the instructor's belief that simple political, technological, and representational justifications do not open up architecture to new, robust means of practice. Debate and collaborative thinking are encouraged. Students should expect to develop skills to formulate and articulate well-informed, yet imaginative positions and speculate about corresponding techniques.