

ARCH 571

I-House 1: A Design/Build Studio

Instructor: Prof. Tom Loew

The I-House Design-Build studio affords students the opportunity of exploring the design process as it directly relates to the practice of custom design and to the fabrication of a residential scale project. The studio model is representative of small architectural firms where the considerations given to design thinking are quickly realized in an intended physical product. The I-House studio begins with a fall semester of design work followed by fabrication planning and the eventual construction of the designed project in the ensuing year.

In recent years residential design/build trends have required architects to plan for flexible and transformable space. The I-house 1 brings this challenge to the academic community where the physical environments for research, teaching, mentoring, and collective learning are being rethought. The Fall 2020 studio initiative challenges students to design a home which is to serve an artist in residency. Ultimately, the I house 1 is intended to promote engagement between specialized guests, faculty, students, and the community as a whole.

Students work shall seek for unique and innovative design solutions in response to the given program demands. Designs shall promote sensitivity to a range of human experience and consider how this experience is interwoven within spatial qualities of the intended architecture. The Covid 19 pandemic of 2020 adds a significant challenge to this task where architects and designers of this new era must consider the dichotomy and balance between public and private spatial allocations.

The I House studio represents a unique opportunity for students to experience a hands on approach to architectural design. The studio is designed to balance design exploration with the demands and requirements associated with the realm of fabrication; where conceptual and schematic designs are transformed into fabrication details and construction documentation. The completed Studio work shall represent a responsive, innovative, fully integrated, and buildable architectural solution.