

ARCH 576-PUP Graduate Seminar

Picking Up The Pieces

Professor: Mark Taylor

Tuesdays 9:30 – 12:20 PM

Credit: 3 Hours

Locations: Rm. 102B, Arch Bld.

And: Gable Home, 4110 S. Race St.

And: Remotely Via Zoom

If you are interested in taking this seminar.

Please Email: mstaylor@illinois.edu

“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

Buckminster Fuller

The COVID -19 Pandemic has impacted the lives of millions and continues to do so. When the title for this seminar was called for it was hoped that by the Fall of 2021 the US would be emerging from the pandemic and there would have been the opportunity to “Pick up the Pieces” on things stalled during the past 15 months. However as of Aug 9th 2021 with little more than half the country vaccinated and no children under the age of 12 eligible for emergency use vaccination “getting back to normal” may not be as close as we imagined?

How Good Was “Normal” ?

One thing the pandemic has done for many (or maybe just the fortunate) it has enabled a break from the regular routine of life and an opportunity to assess what is important, what is of true value and where should one’s efforts be focused. The seminar setting offers an opportunity for graduate students to draw close to the research agendas of faculty. In this seminar the focus will be holistic sustainable living, sometimes referred to as Permaculture. The student designed and built Gable Home: https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/university-of-illinois-gable-home_o will act as a “muse” for the seminar. During the semester is expected that each student will experience the home at least once and gain an understanding of what works in the house and what could be improved on or made more affordable.

In addition to learning about the house there will be opportunities to rectify some of its failings, describe the systems at work in the house, and develop new versions of the house using different materials and assembly processes. Students can opt to work independently or in small groups from a selection of tasks and opportunities. Below is a list of some of the research and learning opportunities that can be pursued during the semester:

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| 1. Address deficiencies in flashing details` | 2. Describe and Illustrate the geothermal system | 3. Refine the bathroom |
| 4. Reinstate deck | 5. Develop landscaping plans | 6. Design similar home for Ho-Chunk Nation |
| 7. Design a similar home using Geopolymers | 8. Establish links with Habitat for Humanity | 9. Establish links with Solar Decathlon team |

In addition to the research/work described above, each week there will be a one chapter reading assignment requiring a one page of notes to be submitted. The chapters will be from one of the following books which you will have to acquire yourself:

1. Harari, Yuval N. 2015 Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind. New York :Harper
2. Harari, Yuval N. 2016. Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow. New York :Harper

3.Harari, Yuval. 2019. 21 Lessons for the 21st Century. London, England: Random House.



The Gable Home, @ The Energy Farm: 4110 S. Race St., Urbana (Aug 6th 2021)