

SENSING LIGHT AND TOUCHING SHADOWS

“Architecture is the skillful, exact and magnificent play of volumes assembled in light” *Le Corbusier*

Light is a measure of time, a feeling, it is malleable and mysterious, it can be hard or soft, it has edges and depth, and it changes moods, creating life and offering contemplation. As with all things, light has a partner, shadow, a quantitative measure of what light is or can be, offering clues of its source, purpose and potential spatial meaning. Our studio will seek to understand the essential qualities of both light and shadow and explore their potential in shaping space.

Approach: (3+ weeks)

Using drawings, physical models and digital media, we will explore light as a medium. Through reading, case study research written/visual analysis, we will rigorously develop a series of individual studies. We will investigate its effects on space, materials and ultimately the occupants, and advance the exploration via group discussions and ongoing conversations. As we dive into the next phase of our studio each student will have a more advanced sense of how light and shadows can be used as a design tool and or a material.



Investigation: (2+ weeks)

This will be a two person group project, focused within Chicago-land area. Designing a place that evokes inspiration, as Le Corbusier explains it “architecture is to create emotions”. This is not a museum, but a place that should function year round for temporary exhibitions of various scales and types. As we discuss this topic further, as a collective group, we will evaluate and determine the final program for what this place could be.

You will then be provided with a selection of individual sites, which each group will analyze as a one week charrette. The final selection of the site will be done by visiting critics, based on the strength of the groups’ argument of why their site is the one to choose. It’s a small competition of sort.



Outcome:

You are asked to explore your ideas using both physical and digital media, proving the potential of them becoming a reality. Answering questions of how building elements are made, developing an understanding of materiality, structure and building envelope in relation to the topic of “sensing light and touching shadows”. The goal is for your imagined work to become architecture in every sense.



For further information on the studio students can email vladimir@radutny.com