

Arch506-824: Research for Design Practices & the Practice of Research

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 1:00-4:00pm

Prof. Linda N. Groat

This seminar course---open to MArch, MSArch, and PhD students---will provide both basic theoretical concepts at the intersection of design and research, as well as essential practical skills for doing research in design practices.

Each student will be able to select a specific area of research interest for their semester's work--from scholarly to practical emphases, to ones grounded in other interest areas, including the framework of Design Justice Actions initiatives. Short assignments throughout are building blocks for students' final paper. Invited speakers with diverse areas of research expertise will be invited to contribute to the seminar.

Theoretical concepts include: definitional frameworks that clarify and/or contest the nature of the relationship between design and research; the underlying influence of design theories and schools of thought on the conduct of research; and the processes by which the concept of "re-framing" underpins both design and research.

Hands-On Exercises provide students with a variety of experiences in actually "doing research" across: a broad range of research tactics, substantive problem types, through all phases of the design process, and diverse types of design practices operating from small-scale community-based contexts to the global international scale.

Students with or without background in research, who may find this course valuable:

- * Eventual graduates who will likely be asked to "do some research" for an architectural project once they are on the job in practice;
- * Those who want to be better prepared for thesis project research, or eventually apply to MSc or doctoral programs, or just want to learn about research;
- * Those who aim to establish their own design business or specialty consultancy;
- * Those who envision themselves working in firms with an established research expertise and/or associated research arms.