Architectural Detailing
Translations from Drawing to Building

**Tolerance** This fall the seminar will explore the topic of Tolerance as it relates to architectural design intentions, the technologies of material manipulation, the design of details and fabrication joints, craft and assembly, construction costs and value and design and construction communication.

This seminar is dedicated to the ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL as a confluence of design intention, human engagement and building performance. It examines the intertwined networks of material sourcing, component fabrication, craft and construction assemblies. We will seek to understand what gets lost and what is gained in the inevitable translations from drawing to building, and how we might benefit from both. The seminar will provide the background, structure and support for individual student research into detail conditions that draw from historical and vernacular precedents and contemporary material and fabrication processes.

The seminar continues a multi-year inquiry into detail conditions, focusing on the broad topic of what constitutes a detail contemporary architectural practice. The seminar will also examine what passes for ‘instructions for construction’ from historical examples to the use of BIM software. We will develop a deeper understanding between architectural graphics and specification texts that translate the design of details into the materials and methods of construction.

**Presentations, Readings and Discussion:** These meetings will explore a concise selection historic and contemporary architectural detail conditions as the mediators between design intentions, materials and building engaging the following detail conditions:

- **Material Expression.** Masonry and Stone Systems, Waterproofing and Ventilation
- **Structural Details in Steel, Concrete, Wood, Plastics.**
- **Material Joints:** Exterior Cladding systems. Interior Finish Systems.
- **Surfaces: Continuities and Seams.** Exterior material surfaces and fabrication, Glass System Details
- **Details as Non-Details.** Abstractions and Disturbances
- **Dissonant Elements.** Artifacts, Furniture, Lighting, Site Details, Urban Details

**Detail Investigation Compendium** Each seminar participant will develop an individual line of inquiry and investigation into a specific detail condition focused on design intentions, material processes, assembly methods, craft, value, performance and human interaction. As a means of synthesizing your research findings we will develop a select series of detail propositions for contemporary applications in construction practice. These details will exploit the latent associations imbedded in details and specifications to allow design and construction communication to take advantage of both greater and lesser degrees of performance, precision, improved accuracies and strategic (in)tolerances.