

Term Fall 2023
Class Arch 509
Class Title **SPACESPIRIT: Invisible made Visible**

DESCRIPTION

An *experimental* seminar . . .

. . . meeting weekly to explore the place of ‘*self-designing*’ as a central design tool within daily architectural practice.

A design forum exploring spatial-*spiritual* links between spaces that we design and the parallel (*reflexive*) act of “*designing ourselves.*”

Utilizing a studio format of design narratives, ‘**SPACESPIRIT**’ explores extended answers to seven overarching questions: “*How* do we find a balance of self-discovery, while remaining connected to earth / wind / sky and our deepest civic obligations?” “*How* might we best embrace ‘*self-designing*’ in our daily acts of moral-ethical navigating?” “*Where* is the connection between dreams ambition, and purpose, in our acts of designing?” “*What* is deeply, most commonly worth sustaining?” “*What* is the place of Spirit and Spirituality?” “*How* do dreams matter . . . “*Why?*”

Framed by the above seven questions, the seminar serves as a weekly meeting ground for each of us to “find our *own* voice” within a global cornucopia of voices.

Specifically, ‘**SPACESPIRIT**’ focuses on our collective obligation to define ‘*design*’ for what it commonly seems to be—a uniquely material *and* spiritual medium, potentially ‘giving voice’ to all manner of human dreams and ambitions . . . including our own.

CONTENT/METHOD

Exploring personal/professional ambition in balance with personal/professional obligations, class sessions are organized around six topical themes: Energy, Time, Space, Spirit, Family, and Technology. Pursued within these fluid points of navigation, the seminar encourages each of us to gain a view of ourselves as vanguards and stewards, necessarily engaged in *directed* change.

Vanguard [Fr., a-vant-garde]: one in the forefront; leadership “by example.”

Visionary: one weaving hindsight with foresight and far sight to create path-breaking possibilities.

Steward: one who understands that the personal and the planetary are integral — i.e., that *infrastructure*, *bio-structure*, *geo-structure*, *et al.* are One.

Seminar discussions are augmented with formal and informal lectures, selected readings, and invited Guests.

Final exam will offer an opportunity to link the seminar with some key element of your design studio work. Ninety percent (90%) of your grade comes from weekly, in-class explorations and presentations.

Taubman Standing	Section	Location	Time	Credits	Professor
(Graduate) (Stamps – all)	009	Mason Hall G463	Thursday 7-10 PM	3	J. Chaffers