

Winter 2025  
Arch 506  
3 credits  
Tuesdays 8:30 to 11:20  
Room 2210 A&AB

Instructor:  
Joy Knoblauch

Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 4p  
or by appointment

## ARCH 509 Theories of Design + Health



Health can inspire design, design can support health, but the two regularly seem to be at odds in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. How can we think about and argue for the importance of design and health? How do various contexts impact the way that design and health blend? This course provides students with an understanding of the multitude of definitions of good health and good design over time, and in various demographic realms. Weekly readings situate interdisciplinary concepts within the history of architecture and its disciplinary engagement with visuality, technology, and expertise. We study how change happens, and the place of the architect in that narrative of change. Students become familiar with the nexus of disciplines and professions that enable and constrain design health.

Participants complete the course with 1) a schema of the potential sites of intervention for architecture and design 2) ability to frame a prospectus for theoretical intervention and / or contemporary research related to the intersection of design and health. Open to undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students

Caption: Study of postures for ergonomic defecation from Alexander Kira's study of *The Bathroom* (1978) from Barbara Penner, "Designed in Safety: Ergonomics in the Bathroom" in Kenny Cupers, ed, *Use Matters, An Alternative History of Architecture*. (New York: Routledge, 2013), 167.