

Studio Professor
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 side
 MWF 1:00 – 4:50pm
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Shaker Village, Pleasant Hill

“I became even more site specific and looked at the site or other circumstances for inspiration of the form. The form itself is not guided anymore by an underlying principle but rather is the outcome of a situation derived from the site... the site and the program determine the architectural form more than any preconceived notion or idea about what MACK architecture is.”

MARK MACK, Architect

“For if the intervention is to find its place, it must make us see what already exists in a new light.”

PETER ZUMTHOR, Architect

PROJECT 3: Wall House
 Assignment given: Monday, October 27, 2020
 Assignment due: Wednesday, December 09, 2020, 1pm

Introduction:

Congratulations, clients have identified each of you as their architect for a project in the Kentucky landscape. The Lüthi family -Agnes, Roger, and their twin sixteen-year-old sons Tristan and Vincent have recently moved to Kentucky. While renting a house on Gratz Park in downtown Lexington, they would like you to assist them in creating a summer home, modest in scale and in function, but something very special for them and their two sons who will be soon attending the University of Kentucky.

Agnes, is a former Swiss detective with the Lausanne police and Roger an architect by education. He has never practiced; instead, he formed an NGO two decades ago to assist [Doctors Without Borders](#). He organizes relief efforts for countries in crisis (currently assisting with the influx of Syrian and Kurd refugees) and uses his architectural education to be a leader in providing temporary shelter and food distribution around the world. In practical terms this means that he has some strong ideas –which are not always well thought out - but he has made the commitment to hire you as the architect, based on the strong recommendation of your former professor. Most importantly, Roger has three guiding principles that he learned as a student and

that he has used in each of his everyday life situations. He invites you to incorporate them within your overall attitude towards this project:

- Search for an *economy of means*
- Define a *principle of settlement*
- Create a *model of life* that you structure and give form

Project:

The basis of this project is that the Lüthi's fell in love with a piece of property outside of Pleasant Hill, the site of the Shaker religious community, and believe that their property was settled by members of the Shaker community. Being European, the Lüthi's love history and particularly are fond of living in renovated spaces, thus their interest in this site and the interest in the Shakers and their important contributions to a way of living. The story about the ruins on the Lüthi's property is uncertain, but what is known through research is that they date back to the American Civil War, around 1862-63. A Shaker family was to build several structures and only the ruins are visible today -a robust stone retaining wall with a set of stairs and a built-up basement on the lower portion of the site, and a 2-foot-high foundation for possibly a barn, storage or a house on the upper portion of the site. There is not much more known about the site to the exception that one majestic tree has survived. Roger has drafted a site plan which includes all the basic elements that will give you a sense of the place (to be distributed on Monday, October 26, 2020).

Your clients invite you to develop three functions (**1.** an entrance sequence from the lower part of the site to upper level of the site; **2.** a MODEST summer home that should accommodate their family; a space to cook and two to bathe, necessary public spaces to dine and entertain, spaces for nocturnal rejuvenation, ample basic storage as furniture, and **3.** a swimming pool. Of course, the design should also make a statement about contemporary integration within the beautiful landscape, something that Roger believes the Shakers accomplished in such a beautiful and subtle manner. To assist you in your task, Roger provides the following suggestive prompts but insists that you should foremost rely on your creativity:

Sequence of spaces is key to any architectural design. Be it as how one approaches a site, a building or how the interior functions are distributed within a building. Giving hierarchy and order is key for a successful spatial experience. Most often architects use a primary and secondary circulation path to celebrate spaces and places. Please refer to the previous Case Study projects to assist you in understanding the term *sequence of spaces*.

Building/Pavilion should be understood like a summer home, and should reflect the character of being on vacation to enjoy long weekends away from the city life. While the required functions are important (inside and outside activities), you should think about every aspect of a program regarding domesticity and living. In fact, why not think of a model of life for this family and what it means to own, inhabitant, and entertain. Think of the differences between a house, a home and a dwelling and what qualifies each of them.

Swimming pool is a dream for the Lüthi family and while modest in scale (they absolutely do not want either an Olympic pool or some kind of ostentatious Las Vegas pool) they expect something elegant and functional that provides a wonderful summer activity.

Landscape: There is in fact only one tree on the site and Agnes (who is an avid gardener and loves landscaped sites) requested to think about how to landscape their site. This means that anything that you do regarding all outside interventions should be integral to the project and that design strategies about how the house is seen as an extension of the landscape and the landscape an extension of the house, be carefully considered, explored and forcefully expressed in your final proposal.

One more important feature. While an architectural structure is like the skeleton for humans, you should not only think of a structural principle to bring down loads, but consider your structure as being able to DEFINE space. To assist in this endeavor, think of the three vertical structural types that we have been discussing since the case study project.

Columnar structure
Wall structure
Column and wall structure

Also, a simple research project on the three vertical structural systems will accompany this requirement and will be conducted by student throughout the remainder of the project.

Schedule:

You have a total of eight (6) weeks to accomplish this task minus a number of days spent with family during Thanksgiving. Currently, I would like to maintain the schedule rather open, yet I will give you important milestones as we proceed through the end of the semester.

Monday, October 26:
In class

Rapid review of the case study presentation boards
Introduction of Project 3
Research and iteration by students. **Project will be conducted individually.**
You are asked to develop three (3) schemes based on the above required functions, each with one structural system and no specific site conditions

Wednesday, October 28:
Zoom session

Presentation of three conceptual schemes by each student
Presentation of site conditions
Introduction of how to think of a site and integrate a building within a context.

Other milestones are to be announced accordingly.