

Studio Professor

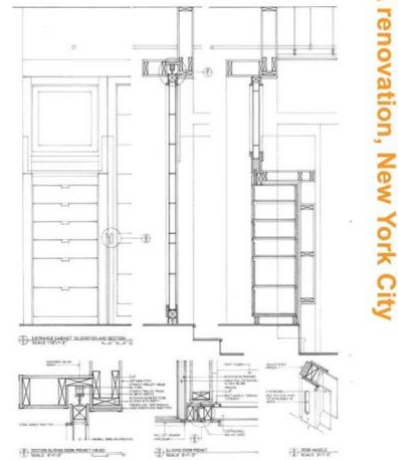
Henri T. de HAHN

Studio: Cowgill Hall 3rd Floor
MWF 1:25 – 5:15pm

Seminars: TBD

Office hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

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Project by Henri T. de Hahn

“Buildings are artificial constructions. They consist of single parts which must be joined together. To a large degree, the quality of the finished object is determined by the quality of the joins.... The direct, seemingly self-evident way in which these objects are put together is interesting. There is no interruption of the overall impression by small parts which have nothing to do with the object’s statement. Our perception of the whole is not distracted by inessential details. Every touch, every join, every joint is there in order to reinforce the idea of the quiet presence of the work.”

Peter Zumthor, *Chinks in sealed objects*, in *Thinking Architecture*

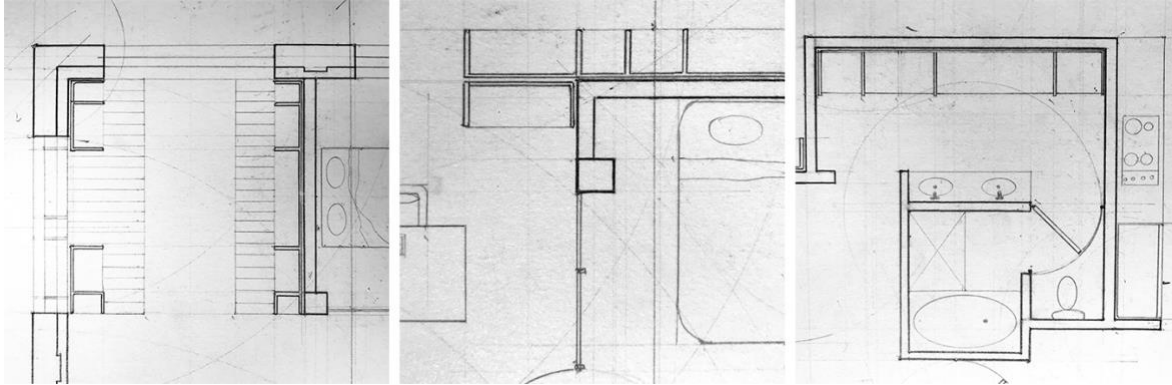
Cabinetry

This exercise is about immersing yourselves into the world of construction and, in particular, that of detailing. Not the macro-scale of construction methods used in building, but rather a more acute attention at the micro-level, namely the detailing of cabinetry. In trade jargon, cabinetry is called “finished woodwork made by a cabinetmaker.” This includes cabinets, pieces of built in or movable furniture, chests, shelves, drawers, bookcases, doors and at times, walls. These are most often custom made for a client’s needs, or to fulfill the architect’s spatial intentions.

Since the beginning of this semester’s loft renovation, I have insisted that each project contain a number of cabinet pieces. I remember some projects pushing the envelope by orchestrating an entire entrance wall as a series of bookcases, or establishing a threshold between spaces with a sliding door. These examples and many more will be the pretext for you to detail those elements.

However, to learn about a particular mode of detailing, this exercise will require that the major material for constructing cabinetwork is wood, used both structurally and non-structurally. Essential to the success of this exercise is that you:

- continue to practice your architectural creativity when conceiving the cabinetry
- familiarize yourself with the dimension of finished lumber (different from rough lumber)



Details from the loft renovation by Aayush Das Anat

Assignment

It is important for this exercise (cabinetry) as well as for the upcoming additional two exercises (art selection and furniture selection) that each student continue to work on refining their overall renovation project. The intention of this assignment is to further the project through the detailing of certain areas, thus bringing the project closer to construction drawings that may well constitute the first steps in communicating your ideas to a contractor and cabinetmaker. Perhaps most importantly, is to understand that this focus on detailing will demand that you continuously reconsider some conceptual moves regarding the overall organization of your project. This is not a requirement but a reality of all student and professional projects.

What I mean is that while the overall concept of your project should be determined by now, and not change dramatically, particular adjustments in terms of space, organizations, and dimensioning will be brought to your attention because of the “reality” of how you detail your cabinetwork. We will have ample time to experiment and talk about this design process.

NOTE: We will conclude all project plans, sections and elevations at **scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$** rather than $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$ as previously mentioned before Spring Break.

1. At the beginning of the year, few of you had any experience in making architectural drawings, sketches, or conceptualizing by translating ideas into space. Just imagine your journey from August to now and how much more comfortable you are in your skill set. Designing cabinetry should not be any different and I invite each of you to embrace this new topic with the fervor that I have come to know you are capable of.
2. Students are to select one to two areas of their project and detail specific conditions of that room / space. The above three images are from Aayush's loft project and showcase areas similar to those that you will need to choose based on your own project.
3. The selection of your area must contain opportunities for cabinetry. One element **must** be a door that you will fully detail.
4. First sketch conceptually. How do you think of the elements or intend to detail the various cabinetry pieces? Then proceed with hard-line drawings at $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$ scale and $1 \frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$ scale.
5. Plans, sections and elevations of your cabinetry will be thought out, designed, and drawn in a manner similar to the following two images, to the exception that they will not be about a building. In addition, you may reference the drawing at the top of this assignment.
6. Each element of cabinetry will later be drawn into the overall $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$ apartment plan with the appropriate level of diminished detail.

Deliverables

We will discuss the deliverables as progress is made.

Blogs to read

<https://atelierdehahn.com/architectural-education-what-does-the-design-of-built-in-cabinetry-have-to-do-with-architecture/>

<https://atelierdehahn.com/nyc-loft-renovation-arch-virginia-tech/>

