

Studio Professor

Henri T. de HAHN

Studio: Cowgill Hall 4th Floor
MWF 1:30 – 5:15pm
Seminars: TBD
Office hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment
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Francois Boucher, *Madame Boucher* (1734) detail
Norman Rockwell, untitled (1946) detail
Loft detail:

<http://www.home-designing.com/2015/12/a-kid-friendly-apartment-renovation-by-ruetemple-architects>

“The house is perhaps the single most important design problem for an architect. It is the one building type that inspires the greatest variety of expressions responding to one of the most basic human needs: home. In the house, the architect expresses his or her idea of how we should live. From Palladio’s ideal villas to Frank Lloyd Wright’s prairie houses and Le Corbusier’s machines for living, the house, more than any other building type, has been an important repository of our traditional way of life and the primary conveyer of new ideas in architecture.”

ROBERTO DE ALBA, Architectural journalist and designer

INTRODUCTION:

This semester’s projects (Spring 2026) will be dedicated to one single project with many small charettes. The project reflects the inherent need for humans to call a house/apartment a HOME and with public extensions through and within domestic spaces. Between visionary speculation and a desire for healthy pragmatism, this *research* projects emphasize the faculty’s interest expressed in the following paragraph drawn from The Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (I.A.U.S) – founded by Peter Eisenman in 1967 (the Institute closed 1984)-a school that I attended for one year:

“The Institute [for Architecture and Urban Studies] believes that there is a critical link between architecture as a humanist discipline and professional practice. In all of its activities, the Institute tries to relate its research and educational role to its involvement in practice and in this respect, it seeks to sustain both education and practice as a natural continuity.”

Open Plan brochure, I.A.U.S., p.8, 1977

While architecture and the *Education of an Architect* (title of the seminal 1985 Cooper Union publication), reflect both teaching and learning, a balanced approach to design issues will remain

key to the rest of this year's studio preoccupations. There is a great need to speculate, and indeed there is equally a great beauty in this activity; however, without grounding those ideals within the measures of our profession, any architectural gesture, regardless of its richness, will fail to provide a model of life that legitimizes the achievements and responsibilities of each new generation.

PROJECT:

Issues of historic preservation are more than ever an important topic for the built environment. Ironically, many of today's star architects launched their careers with architecture centered around issues of renovation and adaptive re-use: Frank Gehry's Rebecca's restaurant (1985); Morphosis' (Thom Mayne and Michael Rotondi) 72nd Street restaurant (1983), both located in Venice Beach, CA; or Steven Holl and Vito Acconci's Storefront for Art and Architecture (1993) in New York City, to name a few.

IMPORTANT

For additional thoughts on questions of preservation, please visit the following blogs

1. <https://atelierdehahn.com/lessons-from-vernacular-architecture-casa-rezzonico-by-livio-vacchini-switzerland/>
2. <https://atelierdehahn.com/carlo-scarpa-and-detailing/>
3. <https://atelierdehahn.com/carlo-scarpas-gavina-showroom-in-bologna-italy/>
4. <https://atelierdehahn.com/carlo-scarpas-gipsoteca-in-possagno-italy/>
5. <https://atelierdehahn.com/architectural-education-a-question-of-preservation/>
6. <https://atelierdehahn.com/architecture-education-vernacular-inventing-reinventing/>

These above projects demonstrate that issues of scale, functional constraint, and the establishment of an intellectual position between the old and the new deserve as much attention and ingenuity as those projects that set-in place something new. Given the growing interest in issues of sustainability, it seems appropriate that the idea of *the new* focuses on reinvesting within *the old* (*renovation, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use*). As such, the *tradition* of tackling a renovation project within an urban context will be the focus of this semester's first project.

Agnes and Roger Lüthi, your new clients who were recommended by your faculty would like to offer you the opportunity to tackle the renovation of their urban loft in Lexington Kentucky. Their twin sons, Tristan, and Vincent (both 19 years old) are attending university in New York City, and will be visiting occasionally, thus the need to think of the Lüthi's as almost empty nesters but can use their sons' bedrooms as guest rooms.

NOTE: Each student is to provide individually a design proposal. However, if students wish to work together, please let me know ASAP.

The Lüthi's prompt is self-evident: create within an existing building confine (apartment located on an upper floor in downtown Lexington) living quarters for the Lüthi family that encompasses the following functions (alphabetically and not sequentially!).

- Bathroom 1 –bathtub, shower, commode and two sinks (master)
- Bathroom 2 – bathtub, commode and one sink (guest room)
- Powder room –commode and sink (public)
- Bedroom 1 (master) with walk-in closet
- Bedroom 2 (guest) with built-in closet space
- Dining room/area
- Entrance foyer
- Kitchen

- There was much debate about having a third bedroom, but Roger won on this one by requesting that a possible third bedroom be dedicated to a library space that provides a place for TV and study/work area
- Living room
- Storage area(s)
- Washer and dryer area

It should be self evident, that for an architect what is at stake is not simply the appropriate location of functions within an existing space, but the **creation of an idea** – [a model of life](#) – for how this couple will live within your design. For example, a living room is not simply a place to set a sofa and a couple of well-designed nesting tables. It is a place where social interaction unfolds and where the representational identity of the owners is typically showcased. A kitchen is not simply a place to cook. It was initially the place solely for cooks and servants before becoming a space utilized by the owner, and eventually a multifunctional room that may serve as a dedicated area within other room(s).

A foyer is not simply an entrance. It is a zone that negotiates an appropriate transition/threshold/limit from public to the first semi-public areas. In short, while functions are important, there remains always and unequivocally the need to provide a thesis, a program for your design. Your apprenticeship in this matter – through last semester's projects (case study analysis and wall house) – should allow you to provide a thoughtful and inspirational program for your design strategy. The final presentation will require similar final presentation drawings of the highest quality (more digital than analog this time), along with suggested furnishings, all presented in a unified composition based on 24x36 panels.

SITE: Lexington Kentucky



APARTMENT SITE: 38°02'43. 80"N, 84°29'40. 98"W, elev. 966



Located at 121 North Martin Luther King Boulevard, the site of your intervention is in downtown Lexington, Kentucky. In short walking distance from the historic Gratz Park district and a vibrant

downtown city life (yes, Lexington does have one now!), the apartment could not be better situated to be considered urban. As with the fall project, there is a little twist.

The loft exists, and the list of functions correspond to those of the current owner: Dr. Dan and Wendy Rowland, friends from my time at the University of Kentucky. We will visit their loft, which was completed in 2008. Your task is to design an apartment in that same space! So how shall we proceed to launch this fascinating topic?

PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

Tentative Schedule for the loft, spring 2026

Week 6	February	Monday	23	
		Wednesday	25	Review room 304 and studio/Project 2
		Friday	27	
Week 7	March	Monday	02	Project 2/Writing essay 1
		Wednesday	04	
		Friday	06	
Week 8	March	Monday	02	Project 2
		Wednesday	04	
		Friday	06	No Class
Week 9	March	Monday	09	Spring break
		Wednesday	11	Spring break
		Friday	13	Spring break
Week 10	March	Monday	16	Project 2/kitchen
		Wednesday	18	
		Friday	20	
Week 11	March	Monday	23	Project 2
		Wednesday	25	
		Friday	27	
Week 12	March	Monday	30	Project 2/cabinetwork
	April	Wednesday	01	
		Friday	03	
Week 13	April	Monday	06	Project 2/
		Wednesday	08	
		Friday	10	
Week 14	April	Monday	13	Project 2/art and furniture
		Wednesday	15	
		Friday	17	
Week 15	April	Monday	20	Project 2
		Wednesday	22	
		Friday	24	
Week 16	April	Monday	27	Project 2/final presentation drawings
		Wednesday	29	
	May	Friday	01	
Week 17	May	Monday	04	
		Wednesday	06	Last day of classes
		Thursday	07	Final Review
		Friday	08	

REQUIRED READINGS: for this project

Betsy, Aaron, Notes from New York: Is the Loft Our Future? Posted on August 02, 2019 in architectmagazine.com. https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/is-the-loft-our-future_o

SUGGESTED inspirational READINGS: the following books will be available in the studio during the entire semester. Henri's collection of books.

Alpern, Andrew. New York's Fabulous Luxury Apartments. New York, Dover Publications, Inc., 1975.

Conran, Terence. The Essential House Book: Getting Back to Basics. New York, Crown Publishers, Inc., 1994.

Lynch, Geoffrey. Manhattan Classic: New York's Finest Prewar Apartments. New York, Princeton Architectural Press, 2014.

Nielson, Karla J., David A. Taylor. Interiors: An Introduction. New York, McGraw Hill, 2011.

Ojeda, Oscar, Riera. The New American Apartment: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction, 30 Case Studies. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 1997.

Ojeda, Oscar, Riera. The New American House 1: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction, 30 Case Studies. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 1995.

Ojeda, Oscar, Riera. The New American House 2: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction, 30 Case Studies. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 1997.

Riley, Terence. The Un-Private House. New York, The Museum of Modern Art, 1999.

Trulove, James, Grayson: Il Kim. The New American Cottage: Innovations in Small-Scale Residential Architecture. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 1999.

Trulove, James, Grayson: Il Kim. The New American House 3: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction, 30 Case Studies. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 2001.

Trulove, James, Grayson: Il Kim. The New American House 4: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction, 30 Case Studies. New York, Whitney Library of Design, 2003.