

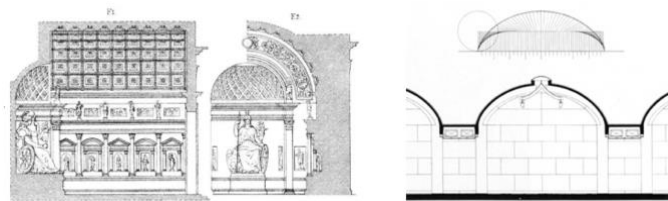
Virginia Tech Pathway Grant Proposal  
Henri T. de Hahn



Painting: Hubert Robert



Architecture: Louis I. Kahn



Structure: Rome and reinvented Rome

Humanities' genius has always been successful in creating, innovating, and solving new problems, when the arts and sciences have been accomplices towards re-defining new boundaries. Similar to Vitruvius' remarks, the architect today is different than the one who receives that foundational education. More than ever, those studying the arts and the sciences must seek an education that establishes life-long learning principles based on their ability to interconnect between disparate and seemingly opposite Knowledges. And yet, within the academic environment, how students traditionally learn, produce and practice new knowledge has not made the necessary strides in establishing contemporary connections between disciplinary interests. Too often inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches rely on developing basic commonalities between the disciplinary specifics; but fail to explore other important connections to solve problems in a more holistic and humanistic way. This second approach can be developed in promoting systems of analogies that are outside of each discipline, yet are strong bonds that bring added value to any proposition.

The following proposal seeks to remedy these two approaches by drawing together three disciplines –art, architecture, and structural engineering in order to develop common observational skills that enhance the curiosity and creativity of both scientists and artist's identities. Building on the successful class that Yale University established a decade ago in "helping future doctors learn the art of observation," the ambitions of this proposal is as following:

- Develop an integrative approach to innovative problem solving based on the development of an acute sense of observational skills

- Cultivate and expand the student's curiosity in each of the three disciplines by contextualizing what he/she sees within a historical, cultural and social framework
- Acquire an appreciation that art and science –a true polytechnic identity, can be seen as allied fields, thus enabling future professionals to seek innovative solutions within the new paradigm of alternative practices.