

Revitalizing a Modernist Landmark

Meeting Location: UO Portland Center
Meeting Days/Time: Monday –Thursday: 6:00pm–9:00pm
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Background

Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) is currently investigating viable uses for the former Portland Visitors Information Center (most recently McCall's Restaurant). This 1949 building was designed by John Yeon, a well-recognized northwest modernist architect, and is considered a good example of his inventiveness in both design and construction. The building has been empty for years now, and lack of occupancy along with delayed maintenance is starting to take its toll. PP&R would like to have the building occupied with a viable use. The preservation community would like to see the building rehabilitated in a manner respectful of its historic status and integrity.

The challenges facing the Visitors Information Center signify those on the horizon as the great number of Modernist structures begin to outlive their initial programs and methods of construction. Also under consideration is that the building's immediate context has changed over the years, and any proposed use will have to be mindful of goals set forth in the Waterfront Park Master Plan.

Studio Methodology

This studio is intended to be a 'full-bodied' investigation into the retention of a historic structure within one of Portland's most popular parks. Students will research the building's history, context (physical and political), and all relevant issues regarding its current state. Building programs and associated pro formas will be developed with an eye towards the feasible. Based on this information, innovated design solutions are to be generated that address a wide range of considerations. For instance, landscape design will be an important component of this studio, both to show respect for Waterfront Park and acknowledge Yeon's interest in relating architecture to the landscape. All design work should demonstrate a high level of responsibility to the natural environment, paralleling Portland's efforts in that regard. Finally, this building will need to be treated as a National Register-eligible property, and address directives set forth by the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

A host of Portland professionals will make presentations and lead discussions on key aspects of the project. Public presentations will be organized, and presentation media will be coordinated with the UO media course taught concurrently. All final media should be done mindful of both large format viewing and inclusion in a summary document.

Studio Schedule

Please refer to the studio calendar, following.

Studio Calendar of Events

June

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
week 1		25	26	27	28	29	30

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
week 2		2	3	4	5	6	7
week 3		9	10	11	12	13	14
week 4		16	17	18	19	20	21
week 5		23	24	25	26	27	28
week 6		30	31				

August

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
week 6				1	2	3	4
week 7		6	7	8	9	10	11
week 8		13	14	15	16	17	18

Week 1 25 – intro to project, lecture on Yeon
 June 26 – site visit, historic analysis
 27 – problem definition, site analysis
 28 – programming, historic research

Week 2 2 – pro forma, incentives
 July 3 – programming, pro forma develop.
 4 – **holiday, no studio**
 5 – conceptual design

Week 3 9 – in-studio review
 10
 11 – **public presentation**
 12 – review feedback

Week 4 16 – schematic design
 17
 18
 19 – in-studio review

Week 5 23
 24
 25 – **midterm review**
 26 – design development

Week 6 30 – engineering systems
 31
 August 1
 2 – landscape review

Week 7 6 – in-studio review
 7
 8
 9

Week 8 13
 14
 15 – **final review & public presentation**
 16 – student exit interviews