Methods and Materials
An Introduction to Construction Documents, Details, and Methods of Construction

Course Description

This course will focus upon materials and the uses of those materials in the creation of built environments. The goal of this class will be to introduce students many of the most frequently used materials in a manner that exposes them not only to the aesthetic uses and limitations of the materials, but also to the structural aspects of the materials that are critical to understand if the landscapes we design are going to be usable and sustainable over the desired lifespan of the project. All of this will be put in context through the use of both small and larger projects, including one term-long project, and a final project that will involve the creation of an abbreviated set of construction documents.

Topics covered may include: site construction overview, detail conventions, paving systems, retaining walls, wood, steel, lighting, irrigation, and construction document preparation. Guest lectures will be included in the schedule, as will field trips to local sites, suppliers, etc.

Course Format

This course will meet two times per week for three hours each time. The format of the class will be both lecture-based and studio-based, with assignments that will extend outside of class, and critiques as well. Weekly development of sketch detail developments will accompany two smaller scale projects, one term long individual project, and one final project that will take the form of an abbreviated set of construction documents either tied to the studio that students in the class are taking, or to a project assigned by the instructor. All readings for the course will be available on CTools.

Equipment Required

Basic drafting equipment, CADD if applicable, sketch book, 8.5 x 11 gridded vellum pad

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this course. Many of the optional texts will be of great use to you in the future, however, so you may wish to purchase some of them on your own.

Optional Texts

Harris and Dines. Timesaver Standards for Landscape Architects
Hopper. Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards
Landphair & Klett. Landscape Architecture Construction.
Thallon and Jones. Graphic Guide to Site Construction.
Caulkins. Materials for Sustainable Sites
Thompson and Sorvig. Sustainable Landscape Construction
Grading Policy

This course is offered for 3 units. **Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to be on time. Students will be required to submit passing work on all major assignments in order to pass the class.** Incompletes are an instructor initiated mark, and will be reserved only for those students with a documented special circumstance.

Grading for the class will be broken down as follows:

- Weekly Sketching Assignments: 20%
- Group Project One: Fasteners: 20%
- Project Two: Materials palette: 10%
- Final Project: Construction Docs: 30%
- Term Project: 20%

Policy Statement on Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own (or your own group's) and originally produced for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. While there will be times when students are encouraged to work together and assist one another, unless specifically assigned as a group project, each student is expected to complete their own work individually.

For the consequences of academic dishonesty, please refer to:

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_and_professional_integrity/>.

Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt as to the requirements or the nature of specific projects in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me before you complete the project/activity in question.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon so that we can make any necessary arrangements. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities if you have any questions or concerns, or visit <http://www.umich.edu/~sswd/> for more information.

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