

Sacred Space & Cultural Studies

studio

Bermudez / Silvestrin

VAS

*"Lukewarm won't do. Halfhearted holding back, well-enough getting by?  
Not here. "* (Rumi)

**Phase II : PRACTICE / DESIGN IMPROVISATIONS (with Claudio Silvestrin)**

**DUE** Throughout the week

**OBJECTIVE** Training of intuition through (almost) improvisation in order to develop design confidence and speedy responses.

**PROCESS** Call-and-Response methodology. Simplicity and clarity are a must.

**Take 1:** Each student freely selects an aphorism by Claudio Silvestrin from a long list that is read aloud. Then

- (1) each individual produces a design response to the aphorism in **45 minutes** (Monday 9 Sept.)
- (2) design work #1 gets immediately reviewed (Monday)

**Take 2:** using critique received,

- (3) the same student produces a second design response in **45 hours** (i.e., for Wednesday 11 Sept.);
- (4) design work #2 gets reviewed on Wednesday.

**Take 3:** Students are provided with three 'briefs' that include a site and program each (Wednesday at the end of the day). They are:

- An Immigration Museum on the National Mall
- A Nursery/Kindergarden with spiritual education at heart
- A Supporting Place for the Homeless and other individuals in need.

Then students

- (1) visit the three sites and consider them in relation to the program, their potential for architectural design and investigation; and their own interests;
- (2) select one site/program. Due to its complexity, the Immigration Museum must be approached in teams of two students;

- (3) produce a design response, based on a personal written or selected aphorism, in **45 hours**;
- (4) design work #3 gets reviewed on Friday 13 Sept.

**FORMAT** Media and Technique to deliver design responses are up to the student except that they have to be suitable to the job. Students are encouraged to use what allows them to best explore and express (in a variety of ways) their thoughts/ideas/feelings. For example: photography, sketching, physical or computer modeling, poetry, video, collage, etc.

## BRIEFS

### **SITE 1 ‘Brief’ (on the National Mall, in symmetrical counterpoint to the new National Museum of African American History and Culture)**

The *new National Immigration Museum* is to celebrate the untold story of millions of Americans. Symbolic, conceptual and experiential dimensions of the architectural gesture on the National Mall. Large scale building with a max. (less is OK) 500,000 sq.ft. of programmed space. Contextual considerations are important but not obligatory at this point.

### **SITE 2 ‘Brief’ (the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> ST NW and New York Ave NW – Present McDonald’s)**

A building that *“uplifts our spirit and prevents the weight of materialism from crushing us.”* This is a temple for the spirit and silence that has also a multifunctional dimension that accommodates some kind of *nursery-kindergarten during the weekdays (kids under 5) and maybe some other function during the weekend.*

### **SITE 3 ‘Brief’ (the only empty lot in the block of H ST NW between 6<sup>th</sup> ST and 7<sup>th</sup> ST NW – it faces South)**

A building that *“uplifts our spirit and prevents the weight of materialism from crushing us.”* This is a temple for the spirit and silence that has also a multifunctional dimension that accommodates *homeless and other individuals in need such as at-risk teenagers.*

**MODALITY** Individual and (if necessary) team work

**GRADE** 10 % of the course grade