DOMESTIC SCENES


This course borrows its title from Lawrence Weschler who in his book DS: The Art of Ramiro Gomez encourages us to look at, understand and to formulate preferences and meanings of: How do we life?

The design of a room is often underestimated as a decorative experience yet it is found everywhere. It can provide us with elegant insights and offer an integrated approach to practices used and implied in making rooms. The room is the primary medium of architecture. The definition, dimensioning, structuring, fitting and formal design of a room is one of the most important tasks of architecture.

This seminar concerns spatial responses to significant shifts in the way we live, and the impact of these changes on how the future might look. Rooms too should reflect the dynamics of today’s culture, taking into account the political, economical and individual aspects of our environment. Furthermore, architecture itself is in the state of transition of new forms of living. Apart from the focus of change, however, we need to consider the role of the room in society. Interior architecture is quite often reduced to optimizing technologies, logistics and programming. What is often lost among these priorities is the sense of the room in service of a stronger community or an enlightened society. Design as a living situation, exercising optimum spatial conditions. Usually rooms are designed for a particular use. They fulfill technical as well as functional requirements, so it is a question of bringing these two needs together. Often one is subordinate to the other, and rarely do the two support each other. But the question of the room’s relationship to social and cultural dynamics is often underestimated.

The seminar will be an interdisciplinary analysis of the room and its associated impact on the social engineering of how we live. Examination of theoretical writing and design from many periods will help make understand. Exercises and discussions of each student’s own scheme will provide clues to how to approach our individual understanding of a room. By the end of the course students will not only have a knowledge of the history of a room, but also will have developed a personal understanding of how we live.