

DOMESTIC SCENES

Reflections on the Bauhaus100 Anniversary

Seminar IARC/ARCH 407.507 | Esther Hagenlocher | Winter Term 2020

3 credit hours | Monday 18:00–20:50 pm | Room LA 206.

University of Oregon | College of Design | Interior Architecture Department



This course borrows its title from Lawrence Weschler who in his book ‘*Domestic Scenes - The Art of Ramiro Gomez*’ encourages us to look at, to understand and to formulate preferences and meanings of How we live?

The design of a room is often underestimated as a decorative experience, yet it can provide us with elegant insights on who to weave in questions of our social structure. Designing spaces 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, economic 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 often reduced to optimizing processes in logistics, programming, and technologies. 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 - weaving these two together may offer more. Often one is subordinate to the other, and rarely do the two support each other. 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 the past will help make understand. Exercises and discussions of each student’s scheme will provide clues to how to approach our understanding of a room. The collage will be the media of expression in this course. By the end of the course, students will not only know the history of a room but also will have developed a personal understanding of how we live.