

Vertical Studio Offering - fall 2009

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What is Health?



Water in China
How much fertilizer do you need?
Photo source:
<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/01/big-water-trouble-leaky-china.php>



Hypoplastic Left heart Syndrome
Cause of condition – unknown.
Image source: Auckland District Health

“It is not the world of design it is the design of the world.”

Bruce Mau

STUDIO POSITION: As a point of departure this studio will consider the idea of health. Where are we as a region, a country, a continent, a planet? How does the built world that we design, consider and enable the repair of our environment - our health? It is impossible to consider a singular answer to these questions. It is also impossible to consider that it will be singular individuals acting in isolated paradigms who will solve issues of climate change and who will design the spaces in which we live, work, play, and become healthy. Our collective thought and action is imperative to making the significant change needed in the design of the world. The studio will be a collaborative and integrated effort to investigate architectural ramifications and possibilities within the framework of a small scale healthcare environment.

While we will focus on a healthcare facility in this country, we will attempt to look at the subject through a much broader view. How do we design for our children, some who come into the world the size of a pound of butter? Or, for those whose poorly functioning hearts turn their skin the color of the night sky? How do we design for their families, doctors, nurses, and care partners? How do we make a difference? We will work at both small and large scales – at the scale of the room and the scale of the city. We will question how our work fits within a global view of health and how it can inform beyond the limits of our selected subject matter.

Architecture students, Interior Design students, professionals, and professors will explore these ideas through a new pediatric campus including a clinic, patient/family “hotel,” rehabilitation gardens, restaurant, and more. This central project will be strengthened through evidenced based research and its direct effect on design along with research into materials, structures, skins, assemblies, energy technologies, and sustainable strategies.