

material matters



Instructor: Carol Phillips
Title: Material Matters.

The shift in our understanding of the role of buildings in the climate emergency is one that has left us with an uncomfortable truth – that buildings represent roughly 40% of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. We have agency as architects to make choices that lower this quickly and in doing so to shift our decision making from one that is based in image making to one that is rooted in place.

The comprehensive studio will by the requirements of the term bring you as a designer to coordinate structure, mechanical systems, and a complexity of issues on this site with a public programme. The Circularium will allow for a deep consideration of a circular economy, the way we programme buildings and imagine community. Within the context of the studio there will no doubt be a focus on the materials chosen for your designs, how they begin and end life.

I will ask my section of the studio to dive deeply into their material choices, for the purposes of truly understanding how materials are gathered, fabricated, their source and their characteristics. The ambition is to explore beauty, inherent characteristics, limits, and opportunities in materials – ultimately in the pursuit of designs that evoke and can tell a story of place. Whether the material choices are grown, extracted or invented the section will aspire to engender a love of craft, texture, and material capabilities. You will be asked to embrace the agency that architects have to reduce our carbon footprint but also celebrate our ability to create a genius loci in our designs through the material presence of space.