ARCH 4-507 Advanced Technology Seminar: Green in Practice
Instructor: David Posada

Technical, economic, organizational and cultural dimensions of sustainable design and building.

Innovation in building performance and sustainability is primarily framed as a technical matter. To effectively integrate such strategies into a design requires an understanding of building systems and the underlying science, but the adoption of green strategies and their ultimate success or failure is rarely a technical issue alone.

This seminar examines the architect’s role in getting more sustainable projects built, which often requires selecting, designing, and constructing unfamiliar materials or systems. And many stakeholders – lenders, managers, code officials, builders, and finally occupants – will need to understand and act on this information throughout the design, construction, and operation of the building.

By conducting case studies of actual projects we will analyze not only the technical challenges involved, but also the economic and organizational context of architectural practice. Through discussions with guest speakers, interviews with local professionals, and reviewing project documents we will assemble a more holistic and interdisciplinary understanding of high performance buildings, the integrated design process, and the decision makers who make it happen.

This course counts towards the Advanced Technology requirement.