

## Advanced Curtain Wall 2013

### Columbia University

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Architecture A4634 - Advanced Curtain Wall  
Robert Heintges, Professor (adjunct)

Syllabus  
Spring 2013

#### Enrollment:

Enrollment is limited. Students must have completed all prerequisite courses and must apply for enrollment in the course by submitting a one page statement of interest at or before the first class. Statements of interest should include examples of the student's previous technical curriculum work. Students who have not submitted a statement by the first class will not be considered for enrollment.

#### Course Description

This course is the final offering in the GSAPP technology sequence, and offers an intense exposure to the custom curtain wall in a lecture/seminar and technical studio format. It is the intent of the course to provide graduating students with a comprehensive understanding of the technical concepts and specific skills necessary to undertake in actual practice the design, detailing, specification, and construction administration of the custom curtain wall.

Although the course will emphasize current and emerging technologies of the curtain wall, discussion of specific technical issues and methodologies will focus on those aspects that directly inform contemporary architectural design. Case studies of contemporary examples will be used throughout to illustrate the technical content of the course.

A key feature of the course is the **Technical Studio Design Problem** which is assigned at the beginning of the semester and concludes with a final formal review: in this exercise, students will develop detail drawings and prepare outline specifications for a unique curtain wall of their own design. The lecture and seminar content of the course is intended to inform the studio component and vice versa.

Specific technologies will be discussed in the context of the building enclosure as a technical system of component parts. These components can be defined in terms of five distinct categories: exterior materials, support constructions, performance materials, interior materials, and specialty components. Recent and emerging technologies, such as new glazing and cladding materials, double skin facades, interactive facades, cable-stayed and structural glass systems, etc., will also be presented and discussed.

Students will undertake a brief case study/research project on a topic (building, system, material, etc.) related to their design detailing projects, and will provide a written report and/or brief oral presentation to the class.

Finally, students will be introduced to the contract documentation and construction administration of the curtain wall/building enclosure. This will include a discussion of design documentation, forms of contract, the state of the industry both domestic and international, review of fabricators' submittals and shop drawings, testing, site inspection, etc. Some of the more esoteric aspects of the technology, such as wind tunnel testing, full-scale prototype performance testing, and blast testing of curtain walls will also be presented and discussed in detail.

Lectures will be illustrated with slide projection and supplemented by periodic hand-outs of additional technical information as required. If the semester schedule permits, it is hoped that a field trip to manufacturing facilities and/or sites under construction can be arranged, and that at least one class can be held at Prof. Heintges's firm downtown in order to review material samples, mock-ups, etc.

Students will also be required to pass two multiple choice exams, at mid-semester and at the end of the year which will cover the material presented in class. Class attendance is therefore essential. Class participation and attendance at pin-ups of your classmates are also important.

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of the required Building Technologies curriculum, all courses, including Building Systems II. No exceptions will be considered unless you have placed out of BS II to my satisfaction.

**Course Requirements:**

In addition to class attendance and participation, student performance will be assessed based on exams, and the curtain wall Design/Detailing Problem.

Participation will include in-class discussion of lecture topics, outside reading, and research assignments. Homework assignments may include a brief case study research project and presentation related to your design problem; short technical exercises; and calculations. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and written questions, and may be in-class or take-home.

For the curtain wall Design/Detailing Problem, students will design and draw typical working drawing details for a specific curtain wall concept of their own design. This studio work will be ongoing throughout the semester and will be supported by individual desk crits, pin-up class reviews, and a final formal review.

Student performance and grades will be assessed as follows:

Class Attendance and Participation.....	30%
Design Detailing Problem.....	40%
Home Work/Research/Case Study Project.....	10%
Mid-Term and Final Exams.....	20%

What does this mean? àshow up for class!

**Reading:**

Reading and research assignments will be highly technical, and may include excerpts from various publications, specifications, and manuals of the following organizations:

AAMA (Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association)

ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials

NAAMM (National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers)

AA (Aluminum Association)

GANa (Glass Association of North America)

ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers

All required and recommended reading will be available in the library, or as handouts.

### Professor Info:

Robert Heintges is an adjunct Professor and has taught at the GSAPP for 15 years. Prof. Heintges is also an Architect and principal of the curtain wall consulting firm Heintges & Associates, a division of Evans Heintges Architects. Founded in 1989, the firm has consulted/collaborated on the design and construction of over 30 million sq.ft. of custom-designed curtain wall, cladding, specialty glazing and skylights around the world.

Clients include Raimund Abraham, Allied Works, Tadao Ando, Jun Aoki, Santiago Calatrava, Diller Scofidio+Renfro, FXFowle, Steven Holl, Ada Karmi, KPF, Studio Daniel Libeskind, Fumihiko Maki, Richard Meier, NBBJ, Pei Cobb Freed, Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Polshek and Partners, Christian de Portzamparc, Richard Rogers Partners, Snøhetta, Robert A. M. Stern, Yoshio Taniguchi, and many others.

Recent projects in New York City alone include the Museum of Arts and Design (2 Columbus Circle), Lincoln Center Expansion, World Trade Tower 4, Goldman Sachs Tower, MoMA, Rose Center at the American Museum of Natural History, LVMH Tower at 19 E. 57th St., Austrian Cultural Institute, United Nations Headquarters Capital Master Plan Restoration, Louis Vuitton Flagship at 1 East 57th Street and many others.

Students should feel free to contact Prof. Heintges at any time to arrange office hours. Contact information is as follows:

Office Address: 440 Park Ave. South (30th St) - 15th fl. - [take No. 1, 2, or 3 Train

to 34th St., exit at southernmost exit and walk east on 32<sup>nd</sup> St., etc]

Main Office Tel.: 212 652 2966

Prof. Heintges' Direct Line at Office (voice mail) Tel.: 212 652 2961

Fax @ Office: 212 691 7088

Email: rheintges@heintges.com or rah11@columbia.edu

### Course Outline:

<u>Class No.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Class Format / Requirements</u>
1.	Introduction to the Contemporary Curtain Wall: Concept through all phases of Design and Construction	LectureSeminar; Design/DetailingProblem Presented
2.	Forces on the Building Envelope; Review of Performance and Design Criteria; Principles and Concepts for Design of the Exterior Wall.	Lecture-seminar; Design/Detailing Problem Assigned
3.	Introduction to the Components of the Curtain Wall Systems 1: Support Constructions and Cladding Systems; Design Methodologies and Selected Case Studies	Lecture-seminar; Design Problem Crits; Research Topic Assigned
4.	Components 1: Exterior Materials and Finishes: Glass, Stone, Aluminum and Steels.	Lecture-seminar; Design Problem Pin-up
5.	Components 2: Exterior Materials and Finishes, Glass, Stone,	Lecture-seminar; Design Problem

	Aluminum and Steels cont'd.; New materials.	Crits
6.	Components 3, 4 & 5: System Performance Materials, Interior Materials and Specialty Components.	Lecture-seminar; Crits as requested (Mid-Term Quiz # 1 - to be confirmed)
7.	Design Documentation, Detailing and Specification of the Building Enclosure.	Lecture-seminar; Crits as requested
8.	Design Documentation, Detailing and Specification of the Building Enclosure, etc., cont'd.; Systems 2: New Technologies.	Lecture-seminar; Design Problem Pin-ups
9.	An Introduction to Wind Engineering and Wind Tunnel Testing; Mock-up Testing; Field Testing Case Studies and Discussion.	Lecture-seminar; Crits as requested
10.	Design Documentation, Detailing and Specification of the Building Enclosure, etc., cont'd.	Lecture-seminar; Design Problem Crits; Assign Specification problem
11.	New Technologies and Methodologies: Specifications and Implementation; The Architect's Review of Contractor's Shop Drawings.	Lecture-seminar; Crits as requested
12.	Specifications and Implementation, cont'd. Plant and Site Inspection; Construction Administration of the Curtain Wall Sub-contract.	(Final Quiz - to be confirmed)
13.	No formal class. Your Design Problem drawings will be red-marked by Prof. Heintges, and returned to you for correction and final completion.	Final Design Problem Submission and Specification Due
14.	Final Review of Design/Detailing Problem. Guest critics invited	Final Pinup/Presentation

PLEASE NOTE: class topics, format, quiz dates, etc. subject to change as class progresses.



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