Overview

Combining the fetishism of John Soane’s Museum with the sobriety of Louis Kahn’s Salk Institute, this studio grapples with architecture’s manifold purposes by designing objects for objects and their objective research. Tasked with resolving conceptual design strategies with effective building systems, each student will scrutinize and execute innovative solutions for a 150,000 square foot research institute in Washington, DC. Research institutions provide resources for scholars to tackle pressing global issues affecting cultural, social, and scientific progress. How can architecture participate in that progress? Your independent research institute incorporates a research library and archive, offices and/or studio spaces, and two auditoriums and a gallery space. Architecture’s responsibility to recognize and re-imagine conventions to affect change creates an opportunity to establish design as a mechanism for advancement. The studio questions ways to manage diverse, yet integrated, architectural conditions through a cohesive response by examining spaces for collaboration, isolation, dissemination, and collection. Claims generated from effective design solutions will offer your research institutes the opportunity to innovate centers for 21st century knowledge production.

Throughout the semester students will continually revise and evolve the visual and verbal communication of three things:

What it is
Work needs to respond to the subject matter of the research institute by understanding, and being strategic with, the project’s concepts, components, and systems that determine results.

How it is what it is
Work must demonstrate an understanding of methodology that conveys the evaluation of decisions regarding the project’s progress. We will develop this through conceptual and analytical diagrams and refinement of building systems through design execution.

Why it is relevant
Work should show the ways it is in dialogue with and advances its subject matter.