While the Comprehensive Studio looks closely at the mechanics and certain deliverables of a project, it does not mean that ideas and architectural quality must take a back seat. This project for the Amistad Foundation on the Tulane Campus will look at the potential for ideas within the context of the architectural development of systems and constraints found in real projects. And importantly, it is intended that the story of the Amistad may inspire an architecture that resists the forces of conventional thinking and tests role of invention and imagination in design.

The project is for a new headquarters of the Amistad Foundation, the largest repository of African American artifacts and documents in the United States. The proposed location on the Tulane Campus on a prominent site (next to the LBC) underscores its role as a research center and a place of interchange and the exchange of ideas. The size is approximately 35-40,000 square feet.

As the program contains a large amount of space is devoted to stacks and research rooms one will be able to focus on how architectural quality can be and is often achieved from its systems (structural, mechanical, lighting, etc) as well as space and material, and not become bogged down in programmatic complexity. Also, the role of materials will be explored for their symbolic and expressive potential such that the Amistad story is somehow imbedded in the aesthetic experience of the building.

As the Amistad is a Foundation whose Director, Dr. Kara Olidge, is in support of this project, we will have the chance to interact with her, the collection and its principal staff. We will see the existing space and get some feel for the dynamics of planning for a major move of a major collection and its artifacts on an important site.

EB

NOTE
The studio brief is one of six studios offered to fulfill the requirements for a comprehensive design semester. Sites, program, and building typology are unique to each studio, providing students with a range of projects to consider. 
Note that the overall schedule with shared lectures and deadlines, along with the studio outcomes and deliverables are coordinated. Each studio is expected to satisfy the NAAB Student Performance Criteria listed in the common studio syllabus.