



**ARC 549**

**Material Matters**

Fall 2009

Tuesday 8:30 – 11:10 am

Hayes 108

Professor Annette LeCuyer

Credits: 3

Graduate Research Group/Elective Area: Material Culture/Technics

Prerequisites: ARC241/541 and ARC 442/542, or equivalent

This seminar will focus upon the tectonic – the convergence of poetry and technique in architecture. Through the examination of a series of contemporary buildings by distinguished international architects, the course will explore innovative uses of a range of materials for structure and cladding. It will seek to develop an understanding of how technical decisions in the deployment of materials, construction systems and details may also be directed toward conceptual and cultural ends.

This integration of making and meaning will be explored through studies of buildings that demonstrate a strong relationship between concept and construction together with a high level of integration of architectural, structural, services and enclosure systems. These studies will emphasize ways in which digital design and production techniques are changing the understanding of material optimization and producing new concepts of order.

The seminar will be organized as a series of discussions emerging from lectures, readings and student presentations. Students will research and demonstrate through the making of detailed models, mockups and drawings an understanding of both the conceptual basis of a building's design and its execution.

*“What we built should always be a whole, an entity, and the job of designing it is very much the job of giving it the wholeness of a work of art and the inevitability of a perfect tool.”*

*Ove Arup*