

ARCH 4050 / 5050 . MARK~

Instructor: Kelly Carlson-Reddig, Associate Professor
Meetings: Thursday 2:30-5:00
Location: Fretwell 116
Credit Hours: 3 Undergrad or Grad Credit Hours

MARK

- **Noun:** *Thing (material embodiment-Evidence)*
- **Verb:** *Action (human engagement-to MARK Something)*

Premise / Theme

This seminar engages the material, haptic, and aesthetic realms of the "MARK" in the context of architecture. MARKS in architecture arise at the intersection of materiality and technique. They exist at the intimate scales of the surface and constructional detail, and are characterized by visual and tactile distinctions. They include the formwork texture of a concrete surface, the bonding patterns of masonry, the grain and carved surfaces of wood, patterned arrays of fasteners, heat and finishing marks, aging and weathering, natural and modified material qualities, and tooling marks of all types. MARKS are often unintended or accidental, but they can also be anticipated and conceived through sensitive design, and realized in the acts of making, craft, construction, fabrication, assembly, and the forces of time. All architects should know the basics of materials and construction, but the subtle appreciation of MARKS is a nuance for those who aspire to phenomenological and aesthetic poetry through architecture's materiality.

Themes:

- Mark Primary Principles and Outliers
- Mark Language, Intentions, Concepts
- Marks in Art and Craft
- Making Processes (Hand Craft, Digital Fabrication, Construction, Tools)
- Tectonics, Details, Ornament, Joints and Surfaces
- Materiality (Concrete, Masonry, Wood, Metals, Glass, Synthetics)

Goals and Objectives

- Gain appreciation for the significance of MARKS in the context of architecture, art, craft, making, construction, manufacturing, fabrication and materials
- Develop conceptual frames for understanding architectural MARKS related to aesthetics, meaning, process, purpose, design, making, and technology
- Deepen awareness of architectural MARKS by studying exemplary projects and contemporary manufacturing methods with consideration to the evidence they impart in materials and architecture
- Engage related materially-nuanced design thinking through reflective hands-on experimentation

Content & Structure

The 2.5-hour weekly seminar will engage the study of Marks ((within and beyond architecture) through readings, lectures, discussion, collaboration, concept diagramming, and project review of material proposals and focused hands-on experimentation. These formats will be focused on understanding the scope and meaning of MARKS in architecture, considering different intentions for materials, tools, processes, and variables. Evaluated course requirements include:

- **Taxonomic Studies** (Three for 30%)
- **Two-Page Thematic Reflections** (Weekly for 30%)
- **MARK Making Vignettes / Material Samplers** (9-10 for 30%)
- **Participation and Collaboration** (10%)

Course Materials Fee : A \$35 course materials fee is required.

Readings: Online

