let us now engage in a spirited architectural contest

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

STUDIO
PONDERING ‘PLACE’

“Every site contains three places: the **physical** place with its earth, sunlight, and view; a **cultural** place, the locus of the traditions of human intervention; and a **spiritual** place, or that which we would call an evocative presence, which stirs our imaginations and sends us in search of images, memories and analogues. These three aspects of place roughly correspond to body, mind, and spirit.

We use these different aspects of a place when we design a building. Using the physical place we try to draw the landscape into the composition, the architecture, or rather the building, playing a part, but only a part. Sometimes this is achieved by contrasting building and setting, but often we merge the two, even trying to blur the distinction between them to make them the same. We use the cultural place as a source of patterns of habitation and associated architectural traditions, so that there may be some sympathy of existence between neighbors, as well as times. We look to the spiritual or evocative place for images that strengthen the architecture, making it memorable in the landscape.”

**W.G. Clark**
excerpted from the essay *Three Places*
Built as a federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, the Armory is located on the former Blacksburg Public School Campus, where the local elementary and high schools originally stood. This building served as a National Guard armory and then as an auditorium for the second Blacksburg High School which was built in 1916 and currently still stands behind the Armory.

The Armory was built with high ceilings, allowing excellent natural light, and includes a prominent 1,700-square-foot mezzanine. Until the 1960s, the building was used as a community center, a gymnasium, an arena for sporting events, and a place for public meetings and high school dances. Photo from “Blacksburg, Understanding a Virginia Town, Town Architecture” Donna Dunay, 1986.
when you realize that there was a beer truck in front of the site when you first got there and then you forgot to go back and take overall photos
and then today it was pouring rain so you couldn’t go and take beautiful photographs on your way to campus this morning.
a prominent pedestrian axis between campus and downtown
a flat-ish site, currently just for the cars
there is subtle topography to the site
the site slopes down a bit from front to back
there are some large trees surrounding the site, trees are nice
an opportunity to engage the armory, the public realm, and downtown
what can we learn from the existing armory?
The College of Architecture and Urban Studies is comprised of four Schools. And while the School of Architecture + Design and the Myers-Lawson School of Construction are part of the backdrop of campus life, the facilities of the School of Public & International Affairs (SPIA) and the School of Visual Arts (SOVA) boast connections to the urban landscape of downtown and the larger community of Blacksburg.

As a means to foster engagement between fulltime practicing artists, students, and the greater community, the School of Visual Arts is establishing an Artist-In-Residence program to be located in a new building adjacent to its existing home in the Armory Art Gallery downtown. This new facility – a combination apartment, studio, and public gallery – will support visiting artists and designers with semester-long residency appointments. Over the span of the fall or spring term, the visiting artists will engage with SOVA students and faculty while developing new work that draw inspirations from the unique offerings of the University, the local community, and the greater New River Valley.
The Artist-In-Residence Studio is to be one, or at most two stories, and should include a rooftop terrace. Your response should address the following programmatic requirements:

- **500 SF** Apartment
  - Full bathroom (ADA accessible)
  - Bedroom w/ closet
  - Dining/Living room
- **150 SF** Kitchen
  - Daily use by artist with periodic use for catered events
- **700 SF** Studio / Workshop Space
- **900 SF** Gallery
  - Connection to the Studio
  - Sidewalk visibility
- **100 SF** ADA Accessible Bathrooms (2) + Janitor Closet
- **100 SF** Loading Area
  - Direct unloading from a 12’ box truck to dock with no ramps
  - Direct connection to studio and gallery w/o passing thru apartment
- **350 SF** 15% Core Factor (circulation, stairs, mechanical, exterior walls, etc.)

**2800 SF** Total Interior SF (approximate)
PROGRAM (CONT.)

Parking spaces [2]
Access for a 12' box truck

Exterior Rooftop Terrace
  for up to 49 people, Assembly use group A-3, fully accessible
  without fixed seats, unconcentrated
  SF is to be the maximum allowed per IBC 2012, given the occupancy

Exterior Courtyard / Arts Garden
  to engage the new building, the Armory, and Downtown
SITE / ZONING / BUILDING CODE CONSIDERATIONS

Refer to the Zoning ordinance for the Town of Blacksburg to determine the zoning district, then refer to Appendix A “Blacksburg Zoning Ordinance” of the Blacksburg Code of Ordinances for guidelines regarding site development and building design. Pay special attention to required sidewalks, setbacks, street-oriented elements, and building height and design characteristics.

Parking and loading access for the site can occur through the existing parking lot.

Given the variability in occupancy and proposed usage for the building, the building will be classified as an assembly use group, A-3, and the code official has requested that ALL spaces (including the residence portion) be treated as Assembly areas without fixed seats, unconcentrated. Refer to IBC 2012 Chapter 10 and table 1004.1.2 for guidance on determining occupant load.

For cost and constructability reasons, you are asked to limit the construction type to either Type III B or Type VB. Refer to IBC 2012, Chapter 5 and table 503 for guidance on height, square footage, and story limitations. Please also note how the different construction types affect the material choices for structure, exterior walls, etc..

For this project, you may assume that the building is fully sprinklered.

Your design should clearly account for the safe egress of occupants in the case of an emergency, including from a second story and the required rooftop terrace and all habitable spaces should be fully accessible.
ARCHITECTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

context – geographic, climatic, historic, cultural, political, economic, social, urban, etc.

fostering connections across a variety of scales – building, site, university, community

the relationship and dialogue between interior and exterior spaces

the potency of architectural elements: floor, wall, column, door, window, ceiling, and roof

building program vs. architectural programme

how materials, assembly, structure, and light can shape architecture
REFERENCE MATERIAL / Q+A

There will be a question and answer session on Wednesday, 02 DEC at 1pm in Cowgill 300. Please note that this session will be your only opportunity to have your questions regarding the project addressed.

Site maps, the brief, and other information are available online: http://goo.gl/89Iljq
This project is an individual effort. Your submission will comprise (1) 30x40 board (landscape orientation) and (1) section model to be displayed in the Cowgill Lobby. For the board, choose the drawing types, media, images of models, text, etc. necessary to clearly articulate your Architectural Proposition. Your board must include a wall section or other constructive drawing that clearly illustrates material choices and essential assembly characteristics. You must also include a site plan that clearly shows how you are handling parking, loading, exterior spaces, and the relationship to the greater context. The section model should be taken through a portion of your building that best demonstrates the formal, constructive, and spatial conditions of your proposition, and the suggested scale is 1/2" = 1'-0". All boards are to have a sealed envelope attached to the back containing your name and Design Lab professor.
## SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>announcement</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>30 NOV, 1pm</td>
<td>Cowgill 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>02 DEC, 1pm</td>
<td>Cowgill 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>submission</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>08 DEC, 6–8pm*</td>
<td>Cowgill Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>jury review</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>09 DEC</td>
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<td>project discussion</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 DEC, 3pm</td>
<td>Cowgill Lobby</td>
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*All entries will be accepted between 6:00pm and 8:00pm on Tuesday evening, 08 DEC in the lobby of Cowgill Hall. At this time, your entry will be assigned a number and placed on the wall. You will not be allowed to reserve a space on the wall – entries will be hung in the order they are received.*
WISDOM FROM JIM BASSETT

“The third year competition challenges you to pause and survey the last 2 1/2 years of your time in the School of Architecture + Design. This project asks you to reach back to moments in your various modes of development and study, from structures to foundational design studio, and not merely repeat, but carry forward and extend the conversations had there, taking risks and exploring. You are asked to reflect and build upon your experiences as the challenges of the third year become more specific and complex with respect to the integration of technical and material questions, site and contextual questions, and conceptual questions, all of which condense at the site of the architectural project.”