

Hello Entering Fifth Year Students,

We have completed a selection process to place 140 students into 9 sections of fifth year design for the 2004-05 school year. No one person decided these placements. The entire fifth year faculty worked on this as a group. This was a process in which several factors were considered for each placement. All the sections except one are now filled up to the limit of their available space. Please find your name on the list of sections and feel free to contact your instructor to discuss ideas for your thesis proposal and preparations prior to Fall Quarter that would be helpful to the implementation of your project. The note "tba" indicates a spot which is being reserved for a particular student who has yet to be placed and does not indicate an opening in that section. All comments and questions should be directed to me, the fifth year coordinator at jreich@calpoly.edu.

David Lord decided to retire from teaching part way through the process. This was an unexpected but completely legitimate turn of events. We thank him for his fine service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

There was no time to re-present faculty prospecti and re-solicit student choices for fifth year so the Architecture Department Interim Director Allan Cooper had to make a short notice teaching assignment. Donna Duerk was asked and accepted the assignment. Professor Duerk brings special strengths and opportunities to fifth year design at this time. It is possible she will have a pool of NASA funding available to support students who want to work on projects related to the architectural design of habitats in space and/or related aero-space facilities on earth. We urge anyone who may have an interest in these subjects to contact her for more information. We left space in her studio so that students who may want to work with her may have the opportunity to join her section.

We intend to increase collaboration and coordination between fifth year sections next year in order for you to have the opportunity to have feedback from any and all fifth year instructors and to be more aware of all the other projects. We have all agreed that we would welcome any fifth year student from any section to ask any of us for help or feedback and we will all do our best to accommodate. We may plan some all-fifth-year lectures, tours, or combined studio reviews or other events during the year. We had a very successful (strong, useful, and delightful!) all-fifth-year-final-show in Chumash Auditorium this year and we would like to do it again in 2005. We will ask that each section provide two students to work on planning next year's version starting early in Fall quarter.

Fifth year design presents you with the unique opportunity to select and develop a design project. Of course while you will be the prime-mover in this enterprise you also have the opportunity to develop your own set of consultants in addition to your primary section instructor. Your peers throughout fifth year will also be invaluable consultants. We urge you to be proactive in this, to treat your project less as a school assignment and more as the serious credible work of an emerging designer (you!) that will be relevant in the world beyond school. We look forward to helping you succeed.

Jonathan Reich, Associate Professor
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