

"Innovations in Cross Cultural Health Care Design"

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Interdisciplinary Studio-Spring Semester 2011***

One of the most critical global issues today is the status of the quality of sustainable health care of the citizens of all nations. The concepts of life long health care in a global society are no longer valid as witnessed by recent international transmissions of numerous infectious diseases, chronic illness, life span ratios, cultural complexities and environmental stresses of both extreme poverty and rapid development.

Project One- A Framework of Public Health-Two Weeks

The initial educational mission of the studio is to research and explore the basic principles of health care in cross cultural settings where there are clear and distinct "cross cultural" differences in policy, education, access, technology and care. The search will be for "critical conditions" and "best practices" as expressed through the matrix of the natural and built environments of each cultural condition.

Project Two- Critical Conditions-Two Weeks

The initial design effort will be to develop a small scale facility to serve and support within the context of each selected culture a response to a natural or man made critical emergency. There is a full range of situations that may be considered to serve the citizens in a crisis situation depending on the cultural context and the nature of the emergency conditions. The emphasis will be on conceptual and schematic development of the proposals.

Project Three- Speciality Clinic- Four Weeks

Within the context of each cultural environment there will be a demonstrated need for a speciality clinic for a specific health condition that needs innovative development and service exploration. A full range of potential needs from specific disease control or internal medicine to heart, cancer or orthopedic surgery will be explored for schematic design development for out patient services.

Phase Four - Community General Hospital- Seven Weeks

Within the context of each cultural environment there will be a need for a community general hospital that will serve a sector of a larger city or a rural community and its service region. This facility will require a minimum of forty general medical surgical beds and supporting ancillary facilities. This effort will be the major project of the semester and explore conceptual, schematic and design development details of the proposals.

Special Notes:

1.) The educational mission of the studio is to continue to develop a long term matrix of innovative health care design facilities from a cross cultural perspective. Independent proposals, explorations and research positions are anticipated during the course of the semester. Research teams and multiple directions are encouraged where appropriate and a summary publication of the explorations as an initial monograph as the basis of future research is also anticipated.