



Keep off the Grass...

FOCUS STUDIO: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Southern Polytechnic State University School of Architecture is accepting proposals for its 2009-2010 Fall Semester Fifth Year FOCUS STUDIOS

INTRODUCTION: Southern Polytechnic State University School of Architecture is a five-year NAAB-accredited Professional Degree Program. Our students begin their curriculum of study in a two year Design Foundation Program that culminates with a portfolio review and grade evaluation which qualifies them for entry into the Professional Degree Program (*the third through fifth year curriculum*). The comprehensive fifth year studio curriculum is structured to include a series of exploratory topic based focus studios, and an independent, research based, comprehensive thesis investigation.

The "*Focus Studio*" is a new studio offering in the program's curriculum and was implemented in 2008-2009. In the focus studios, the studio critic proposes a critical or research based project for students to explore a specific area of interest or expertise. *The focus studio critic is selected through a blind departmental committee review and selection process.* The focus studios are followed in the spring semester by the "Thesis Collaborative". The thesis collaborative was implemented into the curriculum in 2006-2007, and is structured as a *comprehensive design* studio model where students engage and pursue independent projects with the support of an academic advisory team.

ELIGIBILITY: We are inviting SPSU Faculty, regional educators and professional practitioners to submit proposals to teach a "*Focus Studio*" in the fall of 2009. Our aim is to attract studio critics with a Master Degree in Architecture or related field of study, a minimum of three (3) years university teaching experience, or with a minimum of five (5) years professional working experience. Collaborative proposals are accepted and encouraged.

Note: *Limit one (1) proposal submittal per studio critic or collaborative team*

All Collaborative Team proposals shall be clearly structured to define the roles and responsibilities of both studio critics

SPSU Faculty Members are not eligible for fall semester collaborative team proposals

PROCESS: A committee will review, evaluate and select up to four (4) studio proposals to be taught in the fall 2009-2010 Focus Studios. The focus studios will be scheduled for Monday/Wednesday/Friday; 1:00-5:00 p.m. or Tuesday/Thursday; 1:00-7:00 p.m. The faculty, professional practitioner, or collaborative team selected will receive a stipend of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00); Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) per member of a two (2) person collaborative team and are expected to attend all scheduled studio sessions, and provide a studio schedule and strategy for prescribed learning outcomes. The selected studio critic or collaborative team will present their studio proposal to the SPSU fifth year students and faculty through a public presentation at the conclusion of the selection process. The fifth year students will sign-up and register for a studio following the public presentation based on individual or common interests. The focus studio work will be published in *Polychrome*, the annual SPSU School of Architecture design publication.

SCHEDULE:	Proposal Due Date	12:00 p.m. Thursday April 09, 2009
	Notice of Acceptance	12:00 p.m. Monday April 13, 2009
	Public Presentation to Students and Faculty	12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday April 17, 2009

OBJECTIVE: The "*Focus Studio*" is the initial design studio in the fifth year curriculum. All qualified fifth year students will have the option to select a studio critic who will broaden their area of interest in a subject-based studio. Our aim is for the focus studio to produce a much higher student performance

Remember this is a blind review so do not identify yourself within your submission, only on Cover Sheet and your Curriculum Vitae, if required.



Keep off the Grass...

FOCUS STUDIO: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

and a broader range of experiences than is possible in a traditional studio structure leading to the Thesis Collaborative.

GOAL: Self-motivation, independent thinking, and accelerated performance are primary developmental goals for the students. With the freedom to select areas of study, the studio critic is afforded more options for creativity and independence, thereby allowing a stronger professional connectivity to the teaching. The goal is that both the studio critic and students learn and grow through mutual interest and research.

DESCRIPTION: Several key components underpin the success of the focus studio model at SPSU. First, is the belief that design education is not a linear process, but rather is experiential in nature. Second, is to develop a foundation level of training that clearly provides students with a mutually comprehensive core of values, skills, and techniques that nurtures motivation and independent thinking. Third, the studio critic must be willing to deal with students of various levels of achievement and technical confidence in a single studio. Finally, a sufficient number of meaningful studio choices that are both broad in topic and flexible in structure will be made available.

FOCUS STUDIO TOPIC REQUIREMENTS: One (1) of the following topic areas of speculation shall be the subject of each focus studio proposal and submittal:

- 1) *Architecture + Sustainability*
- 2) *Architecture + Social Justice*
- 3) *Architecture + Re-Conversion*
- 4) *Architecture + Making*

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The Focus Studio Committee will review and evaluate the proposal submittals according to the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of subject and response to the topic requirements for an advanced fifth year undergraduate design studio. **Note:** *The aim of the Focus Studio is to provide a diverse series of studio project offerings that respond to the Topic Requirements*
- Faculty proficiency, extent of critical thinking and interest in the topic/subject matter
- Significance and clarity of learning outcomes for an advanced fifth year undergraduate design studio; extent of critical thinking for an advanced fifth year design studio that acts as a threshold to students entering into the profession and/or students interested in attending graduate school
- Since the collective body of work produced by the Focus Studio should be publishable, a considerable significance will be placed on the project investigation regarding the learning outcomes, the contribution to the profession, and the timely nature of the subject matter.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS: Proposals shall include a project brief (*maximum 500 words*), proposed studio outcome(s) and deliverables, proposed studio syllabus and schedule. Professional practitioners and regional educators are requested to attach a resume or short curriculum vitae describing academic qualifications, professional experience and professional memberships or licensure. All Proposals shall include and describe the following:

- 1.) *Cover Sheet (See attached suggested format)*
- 2.) *A Description of Studio Topic and Building Type(s)*
- 3.) *A Description of Building/Project Scale and Context*
- 4.) *A Preliminary Syllabus to Define Scope of Project*
- 5.) *The Pedagogy of the Studio and the Studio Critic's Design Methodology of Studio Teaching*
- 6.) *The Proposed Learning Outcome with Significance & Contribution of Project Exploration*

Remember this is a blind review so do not identify yourself within your submission, only on Cover Sheet and your Curriculum Vitae, if required.



Keep off the Grass...

FOCUS STUDIO: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

7.) *A Curriculum Vitae or Brief Biography (Not required for SPSU faculty, since their curriculum vitas are currently registered in the Architecture Department files)*

Please limit your proposals to a maximum of *five (5)* pages, plus credentials for those who are not current faculty members at SPSU and the School of Architecture.

METHOD OF PROPOSAL DELIVERY: Please e-mail all proposal/submittal documents as a *PDF* or *Word Document* to: Dr. Ameen Farooq, Ph.D.; Department Chair at: afarooq@spsu.edu

PROPOSALS DUE: ALL Proposals are due at or before 12:00 p.m.; Thursday April 09, 2009. Any proposals received after this time and date will not be accepted.

Remember this is a blind review so do not identify yourself within your submission, only on Cover Sheet and your Curriculum Vitae, if required.



Keep off the Grass...

FOCUS STUDIO: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Assigned Proposal Number: _____

Note: A proposal/submittal number will be assigned by the Department Chair prior to Blind Peer Review to identify proposals.

COVER SHEET

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Primary Contact (Individual or Team Leader):

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Proposal Topic and Title: _____

*Remember this is a blind review so do not identify yourself within your submission,
only on Cover Sheet and your Curriculum Vitae, if required.*