Swansong School of Architecture

This studio will explore the potential for the design and construction of a new building on the UO campus for a revitalized School of Architecture. Work in the studio will be based on real needs of the school and the vision of those who have collaborated to make it an extraordinary place to teach, to research, and to learn. Work will be informed by the UO Campus Plan and the UO Campus Physical Framework Vision Project completed in 2016.

The new building will be possible because of generous gift from Diane H. Swansong, an alum who has become a commercial artist with a deep appreciation for her UO architectural education as an informant of her work. Ms. Swansong will be donating $30 million to the UO for a new School of Architecture.

The studio will evaluate the suitability of two or more campus sites recommended by the Framework Vision Project, and each student will proceed to design a new building for the best site(s).

The program of approximately 75,000 sf will include all instructional, research, and administrative activities of the Architecture and Interior Architecture Departments.

The studio will work with stakeholders to explore the form this vision might take. All proposals will be expected to follow an environmentally responsible approach in concert with the goals of the school and U of O and to showcase the leadership the departments have demonstrated in this area as harbingers of design thinking for the 21st century.

ISSUES
This will be an intensive studio with emphasis on site planning, contextual design, environmental responsibility, the elegant use of materials, and the creation of beautiful human-scale spaces. Opportunities to develop designs to a detailed level and to explore the unconventional use of materials will be exploited. A variety of media with an emphasis on models will be employed to explore design alternatives. The work will lead to a schematic design at midterm and culminate with the presentation of a holistic scheme at final review. Schemes will be expected to be developed with some critical area(s) refined to a high level of detail. The entire studio experience will be highly interactive, collaborative, and intensive.

PRIMARY REFERENCES
Campus Physical Framework Vision Project
University of Oregon Campus Plan
Suggested readings, including those solicited from students, will be updated via e-mail.