Section 2:

Center for Contemporary Music, Chicago, IL (limit 14)
Instructor: Thomas Leslie

SCENARIO: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is expanding its operations and seeks a venue dedicated to the composition and performance of contemporary music. While forming some part of most performances, the CSO wishes to develop a fellowship and performance program that will support and celebrate the vitality of contemporary music per se. Often at odds with conservative tastes, such music represents some of the most important intellectual and stylistic development in music today, and by creating a dedicated center the CSO hopes to increase awareness, appreciation, and audience for experimental composers today.

The CCM is to consist of performance, rehearsal, research and composition, and administrative space for the orchestra and various ensembles, as well as serving as a home base for 6-10 fellows each year who will require studio, library, and rehearsal spaces. A preliminary program has been assembled that represents the institution’s best guess as to what will be required, however this is considered preliminary and malleable as design ideas develop. In particular, the nature of performance is very much in flux, and innovative solutions to acoustical and seating layout issues are encouraged. The CSO is committed, however, to the actual performance of music, and the comfort and engagement of its audiences is paramount.

SITE: The CCM is considering two sites: one on the SE corner of 9th and State St. in the South Loop, and one adjacent to the existing CSO complex, on the SE corner of Adams and Wabash. During the semester’s first week, your team will conduct a feasibility study of the two sites.

FIELD TRIP: We will meet in Chicago at noon on Friday, 12 September to tour the sites and to see the CSO’s existing facilities. There will also be opportunities for walking tours of the Loop, IIT, and Oak Park. Students will be responsible for their own travel between Ames and Chicago. There will be hotel rooms booked for Friday and Saturday nights and billed to your U-Bill. The U-Bill cost should be under $250 each for those with shared rooms. Travel costs are at your discretion—driving is an option, though not a preferred one.

TEAMS: You’ll be expected to work in teams of 2, although one team of three may be necessary.
forms. Meaning proves to be malleable. Particularly for those productions having so generous a conceptual girth as to invite the messy harborage of opposites within an intended singularity. But, then again, it’s possible that ‘killing floor’ hasn’t anything to do with the metaphorical mourning of the troubled plane upon which a rocky love relationship has fallen. Perhaps it’s a jubilant—albeit flippant—declaration of victory not unlike “We be killing it with this paso doble, baby!” (“it” being the floor, likely).

With such considerations, our semester project is to design a production facility for an Italian toy company in Venice Italy. We will be anticipating the same varied richness and breadth of nuance in both the conception and execution of our projects as implied above referenced song, but with a particularly creative and technically sophisticated focus on architecture’s most elemental plane, the floor. Our sites will be equally varied, ranging from a Renaissance convent church to a former customs house. Our initial resources will range from works of fiction to theoretical treatises, and from historical accounts to court proceedings. Our resulting work will be speculative yet comprehensively determinant, ambiguous yet cogently argued, and supported by keen representations visually bearing their intensity, performativity, multivalency and, if need be, their ephemerality. We will work in teams. We will, as a talented dance duo, kill the floor of architecture—so to speak.


**Important Note: our field trip will be to the Venice Architecture Biennale, on Oct (14)15-19.** This section of Arch 403/603 is designated to represent ISU.CºD.DºA at La Biennale Architettura 2014 – The 14th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice Italy. The field trip will be financially assessed as a University Study Abroad Program. Therefore, in lieu of typical “course fees,” the total program cost that will appear on each student’s U-Bill is $1,105.00 USD. This cost will cover round trip air travel and lodging for four nights ($1000), and a minor university fee ($105.00). The College will make arrangements for travel and lodging. There will be no additional “course fees” billed to the student. The student must pay their own costs for food and other incidentals out-of-pocket. We have estimated out-of-pocket expenses to be $300 for meals and incidentals and $175 for passport, if needed. Because of the Study Abroad status of this program, participating student may be eligible for financial aid through the University to cover all of the above costs, if the student qualifies. A student should decide to take this course only if they can make the financial commitment and secure the appropriate travel documents prior departure date of October 14. Non-US citizens requiring visas will need to compile application materials during the first week of the semester. US citizens without passports will need to apply immediately, as regular service to receive a passport is generally running at 4-6 weeks, and expedited service 2-3 weeks for an additional cost. Information regarding passport application is available here: [http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html). Other questions regarding travel documents can be directed to the College’s International Programs Coordinator, Erin French efrrench@iastate.edu

In Venice, we will form a partnership with the other designated studio, Arch 401 taught by Peter Goché, and with the talents of Cameron Campbell and Chair Deborah Hauptmann, and engage the ISU.CºD.DºA Biennale Session. This featured session will consist of two parts: a two-day student workshop that addresses the Biennale theme Elements of Architecture; and a one-day colloquium of invited speakers that will address the theme Absorbing Modernity 1914-2014. Our participation in the Biennale is, in part, a celebration of our department’s centennial. More on the ISU.CºD.DºA Biennale Session will be distributed on the first day of studio.