

FAA 391 – Action Research Seminar: Exploring Recycled Materials & Structure

Sp12 Schedule: Lecture – Tuesday's 12:30-2pm. Lab 1.5 hours/week by arrangement with instructor. Credits – 3, Maximum Enrollment – 15, Location – 3rd floor Noble Hall

Instructor: Professor Lynne Dearborn (contact dearborn@illinois.edu)

Assistant: Theresa Scott (contact tmscott3@illinois.edu)



In this course students will explore how research and public engagement can be translated into a spatial installation in a Kindergarten class at MLK Elementary School in northwest Urbana. Students will explore the historical and social structure of the neighborhood and the school before beginning research into how recycled materials may be used to create distinct learning spaces within the classroom. A participatory design process involving the kindergarten students will culminate in the implementation of these structures in collaboration with students and teachers in the school. In order to accomplish this, students should expect to make multiple trips to MLK Elementary during Lab time throughout the semester, scheduled to meet the needs of students and Kindergarten teachers. Coursework will involve discussion of readings and activities, work in the MLK classrooms and student presentations.

Course components will include:

- 1) Several short reading/writing assignments completed by individual seminar participants
- 2) Research on use of recycled materials for spatial installations by small groups of seminar participants – to be presented to seminar and also to students and teachers at MLK school
- 3) Active involvement in and contribution to participatory design process by individual seminar participants
- 4) Active involvement in implementation of structures in the classroom by individual seminar participants
- 5) Final report on project by small groups of seminar students
- 6) Periodic written reflections by individual participants