University of Idaho College of Art and Architecture Fall 2024

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The Project of Lookout Towers is a Project for Idaho

Wilderness. Started over a century ago, thousands of individuals participated in its completion. Many with passion and involvement. Some with the dedication of a scientist. Others still with the ingenuity of an inventor. We will approach it as architects.

Our field of investigation is Idaho. In its entirety. The challenge is to create a project coherent with a vast and geographically diverse territory. We will cross the boundary between architecture and other disciplines.

The studio will attempt to blend landform and architectural form.

We will try to provide fire lookouts with an architectural pedigree. Their character will rise through contrasts and analogies with conventional building types. We will learn how a fire lookout can be more majestic than a cathedral, more scenic than a theater, more complex than a library. We will challenge prejudices.

Listening and reading testimonies of those who have cared for and paid attention to fire lookouts will strengthen our motivation. There will be guests. Their criticisms will support us in building solid arguments and convincing hypotheses.

The studio will be structured in three successive phases: Investigations, Improvements, and Innovations. Each phase will have a specific goal. Projects will be developed individually and discussed collectively.

