



Mountain Deflection Reflection

Zachary Hilleson
3rd Year Design Studio
Ball State University
(With John Brown, University of Calgary)

Studio Professor: F. Stacy Norman

Studio Focus: Digital Design and Collaboration

The focus of this studio was to understand the impact of digital media on the process of design, collaboration, and fabrication. This design studio brought together Ball State University and the University of Calgary in a joint venture opportunity. The use of digital tools provided fertile ground for the exploration of collaborative methods in design and fabrication.

There were two primary questions raised over the course of the term. The first question was related to distance collaboration, while the second is related to digital design and fabrication. The distance between each of the universities was substantial and the creation of a design environment that brought together collaborators in a “real” sense were grounds for exploration. The second question lay in the ability to push the use of the computer beyond a tool for design visualization and into a realm of making. Digital information allowed us to visualization an object or a space but the real question was one of fabrication—how digital can inform how we make objects or construct space. Emergent technologies are late in coming to the field of architecture, the use of CNC (computer-numerically-controlled) devices now offer the ability for mass customization and can push beyond digital visualization and into new methods of fabrication.