Collin College - Continuing Education

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester

Course Titles: Building Your Dream House: An Overview

Spring Semester
Building Your Dream House

Course Description:
Explore in detail the design and construction of your dream house with architect emeritus John Donaghey, AIA-E. You may elect to produce on-going drawings and/or a study model of your class produced design.

Fall topics covered will include: site considerations, defining your activity spaces, design and cost parameters and design elements and building codes.

Spring topics covered, in addition to those above, will include consultants and their roles, construction documents, contractors and contracts, and building activity and completion.

You will receive original drawings in handouts, assistance with your designs and question / answer time.

Course Objectives:
1. To provide the students an understanding of the design and construction processes.
2. To equip students for their future design and construction dream house projects.

Student Expectations:
Students will explore the major steps in any custom home design and construction, and can gain insight into working with their design and construction team.

Textbook:
Building Your Dream House: Architect’s Notes
John Donaghey, AIA-E
$18.85 retail + tax; or $10.50 in class (at cost)

Supply list:
1. Pencils: sharpened #2 wood or .7 mm mechanical w/ .7 mm B leads
2. 17” X 22” drafting paper pad (w/ ¼” grid, if available)
3. Architect’s scales (and engineer’s scales, if possible), 6” and 12” lengths
4. Spiral notebook w/ pen or mechanical pencil for lots of class notes

Items below are optional and recommended for the spring semester

5. Small roll of drafting tape or dots; Scotch Glue Stick restickable adhesive
6. Drafting instruments: 24” T square, drafting brush, 8” and 3” 30/60 and 45 degree triangles, erasing shield, Pink Pearl eraser, circle template to 1 ½” diameter circles, plumbing fixture template
7. Drafting surface: drafting board or poster board on 5/8” plywood panel; 18” X 24”, or larger, as manageable
8. Short roll (~18”) of trash paper (butter paper, tracing or flimsy paper)
9. If you wish to build a model: larger, plastic handled X-Acto knife w/ ~5 #2 large, fine point blades, a medium squeeze bottle of Elmer’s glue and corrugated cardboard (box) panels
Alternate drafting:
1. All drafting can be done freehand with items 1, 2, 3, (12” architect’s scale) and 6 (Pink Pearl eraser).
2. Computer aided drafting (CAD): you might want to try a software program such as:
   a. Broderbund’s 3D Home Architect Deluxe or
   b. Punch’s Professional Home Design.
Both programs cost less than $100 each and require a printer for making hard copies. If you have a laptop, they can be used in class for drafting, however, only conventional (pencil) drafting is taught in class. Both programs may be seen on line. Supply List items not found at office and art supply stores may be found at Hobby Lobby, Asel Art Supply, Archive Supply, etc.

Lesson Plan - by week / session
Fall and Spring semesters
Session 1. Introductions; site considerations; Q & A time
Session 2. Defining your activity spaces (programming); Q & A time
Session 3. Design and cost parameters; Q & A time
Session 4. Design elements and building codes; Q & A time
Spring semester
Session 5. Consultants and their roles; Q & A time
Session 6. Construction documents; Q & A time
Session 7. Contractors and contracts; Q & A time
Session 8. Building activity to completion; Q & A time
   Study of the student models on the heliodon

JD