ARCHITECTS DRAWINGS: A SELECTION OF SKETCHES BY WORLD FAMOUS ARCHITECTS THROUGH HISTORY

In this spring 2002 semester I have been working as a research assistant with Professor Kendra Schank Smith, Assistant Professor, University of Utah, Graduate School of Architecture to study the importance of architectural sketching.

In Architects Drawings: A Selection of Sketches by World Famous Architects Through History, to appear with Architectural Press of Butterworth, Heinemann, Oxford, England, Professor Smith and I are exploring some theories of why and how architects sketch. This research is important for several reasons; to study the thought processes of various architects and figure out why they sketch before they draw, also to see how these sketches evolve into finished drawings, and to study the different types of sketching an architect may use to “flesh out” a final rendering, lastly this research is important because no book on these aspects of architectural sketching exist. This book has the potential to become a text for future architectural students not only to expose them to how architects from the past have used sketching, but also to help them use and understand sketching as a powerful tool on the way to finalizing an idea or design.

While substantiating and clarifying work that has already been done on her book and locating new sources for inclusion, I have been working with Professor Smith to gather sketches and information on selected architects for brief biographies. The process has been to locate different architects sketches and personal information, become familiar with their work, and choose a sketch that seems characteristic of that architects style, then to go about obtaining copies of the sketches, as well as the rights to publish the images. The book will cover architecture throughout history; as far back as we can obtain drawings, so the research has had to be very diverse. Also I have been working with Professor Smith to create a database for all of the information gathered thus far.

This research has been very interesting and rewarding so far, I have learned much about architects as well as architecture and I intend to assist Professor Smith with continued research next fall.

James A. Gosney
Junior
Architecture

Faculty Sponsor:
Kendra S. Smith
Dept. of Architecture
ksmith@arch.utah.edu