

APPLICATION FOR 5TH YEAR THESIS AT RURAL STUDIO

Schedule

Portfolios, Questionnaire and Essay due Monday December 14th no later than 3:00pm delivered to the Architecture Office, DY104

Postcard should be sent postmarked on or before January 1, 2010

Selection will be made (at the latest) by mid-January

THE CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO THE THESIS PROGRAM @ RURAL STUDIO

The following have equal importance:

- Display interest, desire, passion, honesty and an opinion.
- Strength of Thesis Investigation proposal
- Have completed all courses not available at RS
- Display ability and personality to work/live with others.
- Demonstrate an understanding that teams have many diverse skills and interests
- Illustrate and give confidence that you are capable of dealing with the tremendous responsibility of a community project.

With this in mind:

The following requests are an attempt to establish the beginnings of a relationship between you, the student, and the RS faculty. We will spend a long hard year living with each other and we take seriously the responsibility of choosing people to be part of this marriage.

If nothing else, allow your personality to come through in your responses.....be who you are.....

Good Luck

Andrew Freear
Director
Rural Studio

Questionnaire: To be turned in along with essays and portfolio to Architecture Office, DY104 on Monday 14 December

Answer ON THIS sheet IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING:

1. Write a few sentences about your personal motivation for coming to the Rural Studio & what would you like to gain from the experience?
2. Speak about your ability to work with others and give an example.
3. Were you a student at the RS in 2nd year: what was the project(s) and briefly describe the experience?
4. The RS is a polemical educational program: briefly describe some critical thoughts that you have toward the RS: what delights & what causes you anxiety about the RS?

ESSAY: To be turned in along with questionnaire and portfolio to DY104 on 14 December 2009

1. **In essay form: On no more than two (2) type written 8-1/2 x 11 sheets (using paragraphs and the structure indicated and keeping irrelevant nonsense to a minimum) reflect on, & try to answer the following:**

A: What would YOU wish to investigate at the RS?

The Rural Studio offers many opportunities. Are YOU interested in; community projects, design-build process, team building, materials investigation, a critique of the building procurement process....etc? What do you understand to constitute a Thesis at the Rural Studio?

- Does your Rural Studio thesis have to be a built project? If you think it does.....say why. Why is your investigation helped by making a building?
- What does it add to the conversation about rural life?
- Why is it particularly relevant to you & your current interests/status?
- The 20k house addresses issues of economy: suggests that “small is better” and makes a plea for better use of rural land. What do you think of this suggestion?

B: What makes a “good team”?

Speak bluntly and honestly about the make-up of a “good team”.

- In your view should there be a good sexual balance in the team?
- What about personalities?
- Diverse views, skills and interests? Strengths / weaknesses?
- If you had to suggest 3 or 4 people to work with from your year who would they be?

C: Responsibility

Speak bluntly and honestly about the responsibility involved in making a Rural Studio thesis project

The RS Thesis projects involve a great deal of responsibility & commitment to each other. However, above all, you have tremendous responsibility to a client: to communicate with that client, and to be within budget & schedule. If your project were to overrun on schedule & cost what would you feel? Are you committed to stay around and complete the job?