

Cornell AAP

Rodolfo Reis Dias

4605/6605

Spring 2021

Department  
of Architecture

Thursdays, 1.30 - 3.30PM

Instruction Mode: Online

mis / alignments

The Poetry of Materials



Eduardo Chillida, Arquitectura Heterodoxa II (detail), 1978

Special Topics in Construction seminar that focusses on edges, corners, joints, gaps (filled or void), reveals, materials transitions, surfaces, textures, alignments and misalignments.

Through the study of the most traditional construction materials: concrete, stone, brick, wood, metal and glass, we will look into how these materials end, turn, transition in-between themselves and/or with other materials. We will look into how these materials have been used in the past and how they have aged or failed.

Students will be presented with a vast overview of precedents of material transitions, throughout architecture and art history. Students are expected to develop skills in designing material transition concepts through model making and drawings following industry standards.

The course aims to identify the qualities of each material, define connection concepts and study the impact onto the overall spatial experience and atmosphere.

The course will consist of lectures, discussions of presented material and development of weekly students assignments.

Medium to large scale physical model building and photography are required skills (no 3D rendering tools will be used for presentation). Technical 2D representation will have a critical role in the development of weekly assignments. Precise hand-drafting and Autocad proficiency are mandatory