

Built Ecologies: BIO-mimetic design

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE !

Biomimicry is an emerging discipline that studies nature's best ideas and imitates or simulates these designs and processes to solve human problems. In the Spring of 2011 Professors Ryan E. Smith from architecture, Don Feener from Biology will host a graduate interdisciplinary session course on biomimicry at the Rio Mesa Center. Design and biology students will work collaboratively to evaluate organisms' response to environmental factors and apply these lessons to the design of built systems that respond passively to their environments. Potential outcomes of this collaboration might entail solutions that can absorb, transmit and store energy; harvest, reuse and restore their own water and waste; and foster increased human health and wellbeing in built environments. Email Professor Ryan E. Smith at rsmith@arch.utah.edu with questions.



Course Structure:

1.5 Credits – Spring Session 2 – ARCH 6360-001, Class #16136

1.5 Credits – Spring Session 2 – BIOL 7964-004, Class #16923

Instructors: Ryan E. Smith, rsmith@arch.utah.edu
Don Feener, donald.feener@utah.edu

The course will have two locations: first book study will occur at the University of Utah campus in Salt Lake City. A field component of the course will be held at the [Rio Mesa Center](#), a remote outdoor classroom and research center in southern Utah near Moab. Students will have an opportunity to camp and experience a breathtaking landscape while studying natural phenomena and apply these lessons to design of built environments and infrastructure. The course is limited in numbers, so please register soon.