

ARCH 170 | FEBRUARY 10, 5PM



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

ARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Nature | Place | Craft | Restrain

MATT WALLACE

Matt Wallace's work reflects an innate respect for the land, where architecture first considers the natural environment, then responds organically to its unique character of place. Design resiliency is a defining principle of his approach. Understanding how the environment can influence and create design synergies begins with a deep investigation of the land. Design strategies which incorporate lessons learned from that environmental assessment are then established. This rigorous process uses a considered design approach to the value of the indigenous ecosystem and adaptation of each site's best assets. Matt is co-leader of the Lake|Flato's Eco-Conservation studio, which fulfills his passion for championing projects that encourage environmental stewardship. He studied under Pritzker Prize Laureate Glenn Murcutt, who taught him the importance of sustainable practices. Since acquiring this philosophy, Matt has implemented it in a number of projects ranging in scale and locale, from the northern landscapes of Montana and Illinois to the arid deserts of Arizona and Texas, all while respecting each region's climate and context. Matt, an outdoor recreation enthusiast, is passionate about water resource conservation. He can be found along the San Antonio River every day engaging in promoting environmental education, stewardship and sustainability. Matt's recent projects include the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center, in Gibbon, NE; The Ryerson Woods Education Center, in Riverwoods, IL; and the pioneering Marine Education Center at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, MS.



ABSTRACT

Nature, Place, Craft and Restraint: those are the ideals and design principles that have driven Lake|Flato's work for over 40 years. In this keynote presentation, Matt Wallace, Co-Leader of Lake|Flato's Eco-Conservation Studio, will delve into the design process for a number of the firm's projects including the AIA COTE Top Ten Award winning University of Southern Mississippi's Marine Education Center, a building shaped by resilient design strategies and the AIA Institute Honor Award winning Confluence Park, a pavilion designed of concrete petals that collect and funnel rainwater to promote water conservation in its community.

Learning Objectives

1. The speaker will discuss strategies the team employed to address Nature, Place, Craft, and Restraint as overlays on program and budget along with both the successes and compromises inherent in the process.
2. Participants will learn how an integrated design process helps the entire team understand the potential for a project and set aspirational goals, including understanding the concepts of building on sensitive coastal sites, addressing floodplain issues, hurricane resistance, and protection of the natural environment.
3. Participants will understand specific case studies and setting goals early in the project help guide the success of the project.
4. Participants will learn how to leverage the role of architecture in the natural landscape, including how to address sustainability as a core value through material choice, orientation, etc.