



Themed Design Studio on **SACRED SPACE**

Fall 2010 CUA Critic: Julio Bermúdez

The desert has played a central role in the spiritual traditions of Western Civilization. It is therefore natural and timely to invoke its awesome power to inspire us to reconsider the state of present day culture, nature, self, and beyond.

The architectural vehicle for pondering about these matters will be a 25,000 sq.ft treatment-rehabilitation center for consumption addiction (focused on materialism and media) run by *Trappist* lay and ordained people and grounded on their strict yet liberating living precepts. The building will be sited in an isolated area within the beautiful and empty redrock country of southern Utah.

More specifically, we'll study Thomas Merton's Christian teachings in relation to principles of voluntary simplicity, Buddhism, and minimalism. All this will occur within a pedagogy of disciplined, mind-expanding, and exciting exploration using analog-digital design methods. The studio will have **Craig Hartman**, a recognized architect with SOM, as guest critic during a week in October and then again for our final review. Lastly, the studio will work in conjunction with Kathleen Lane's (Director of Spirit of Place) theory seminar (although taking this class is not required for doing the studio)

For more information (you'll need to get the reading materials asap) or questions, please contact the instructor by email at: bermudez@arch.utah.edu