Becoming: craft + consciousness is a design studio where you will develop and extend your design methods of analysis and interpretation that are then the strategies you bring to your design project after mid semester. Your observations, measurements and recordings from site visits of selected observable phenomena will be interpreted through crafting (collecting and collating, modeling, drawing, stitching, weaving). We will create an interplay between abstract procedures developed through craft and working with sections and contour plans as investigative and explanatory tools.

Analysis through fieldwork will be the core activity of the first half of semester. In the first week we will begin with a local trip to a ‘junk shop’ within an urban context followed by an in-class workshop, to establish methods for analysis and interpretation as the starting point for three weeks of field trips to key landscape archetypes of Seaside; Forest and Plains. We will consider how the landscape systems including geology and soils shape the qualities of place and therefore your interpretation of each place. Your analysis will be shaped by particular points of inquiry in each location, for Seaside we will look at edges, flux and cycles; for Forest: mass, void and interiority and for the Plains: refuge, vantage point, view and vastness.

The studio’s specific learning objectives will focus on how to establish a strategy to test in a design project in the second half of the semester that is drawn from your body of analytical and interpretive work preceding this. This studio will provide particular tools for the development and exploration of your personal ‘consciousness’ in understanding space. We will examine the fluid connections between personal responses and the nature and materials of landscape space. How this developing knowledge can provide rich strategies for design that flows from methods of analysis will then be tested through a design project.

The studio will run as all-day workshops on Fridays. There will be all day field trips in weeks 2, 3 & 4 + additional classes for presentation of fieldtrip work in weeks 2, 3 & 4 only. In the presentation/critique sections of the workshop we will experiment with methods of critique (including de Bono’s six hats and the Quaker Clearness Committee) so as to expand the imaginative possibilities in each investigation and project.

Class times: Fridays 9.30am-5.30pm
All day Fieldtrips: weeks 2, 3 & 4
+ additional presentation classes weeks 2, 3 & 4

studio teacher: jane shepherd