

College of Architecture



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



S. R. CROWN HALL

GRADUATE COMMUNITY BASED
STUDIO DESCRIPTIONS
FALL 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Untitled	3
1,000,000,000 – Works Progress Administration (WPA) 2.0	4
Community Development & Neighborhood Transformation	5
Waukegan Revitalization: Process and Planning Design Studio	6
Intensification of Place: A Hybrid Urban Program	7

INTRODUCTION

These studios will introduce students to the discipline and techniques of urban design. The studios will all begin with joint case studies and analyses concerned with the four issues of temporality, density, infrastructure, and public space. These initial exercises are intended to provide the students with a basic set of disciplinary frameworks and practical techniques for designing built environments that exceed the scale of singular buildings. These tools are intended to prepare students for fruitful engagement with subsequent design exercises as well as for their sixth semester Masters projects.

These studios will involve significant amounts of collaboration and public interface. Students will be exposed to, and expected to develop competence within the following areas:

- Urban Design Programming
- Zoning
- G.I.S. sourcing and mapping
- Urban Design Diagramming
- Infrastructure Design
- Public Space Design
- Public Speaking and Presentation

Individual studios will focus on design problems that involve direct interaction with public agencies, community groups, developers, or community development corporations, for example. The size of these projects will be in the neighborhood or district scale. The public orientation of the studio should provide students with an understanding of urban design as a fundamentally future-oriented practice, with an expanded potential for engagement in the socio-political milieu. And the projects should provide opportunities to explore how design can expand the urban imagination by projecting and articulating scenarios for the future.

Untitled Marshall Brown Studio

INTRODUCTION

Garfield Boulevard between Washington Park and the Dan Ryan Expressway is a neighborhood on the verge of significant transformation. The University of Chicago to the east is searching for new territory for expansion. Major obstacles include high vacancy rates and disinvestment in the neighborhood that have so far kept it from living up to its potential, given its significant assets, which include proximity to the university and park, two CTA transit stops, and direct access to Midway airport, among others.

THE PROJECT

The core project for the studio will be an urban design proposal for the area from 53rd to 57th streets between Washington Park and the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago.

Students will focus on how urban design can be a tool for negotiation between competing interests and visions for the future of a neighborhood. We will attempt to use design as a preemptive, anticipatory practice with an expanded ability to engage and intervene in the socio-political milieu. Taking current events as a context for our efforts, we will explore how design can shape and expand the urban imagination by projecting and formalizing possible scenarios for the future.

STUDIO FORMAT

The design exercise will have two parts:

1. A research and programming phase where we will have substantial engagement with various stakeholders and agents from the site, including politicians, developers, residents, and institutional representatives. From this research we will derive programs and potential future scenarios for the site. This will be collaborative work and involve the development of maps and documents that outline both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of a program, in the context of a specific narrative about the future of the site with regard to the concerns mentioned above.
2. A design development phase where we will develop site planning, massing, and landscape strategies along with some critical architectural scale articulations. This will also be a collaborative work and will involve the production of a final master plan with drawings and models at 1:50 scale, with views and detail models of critical intersections or architectural instances.



1,000,000,000 – Works Progress Administration (WPA) 2.0 Martin Felsen Studio

INTRODUCTION

The project for this studio is to relocate the world's anticipated one billion water refugees to the Great Lakes basin. [A water refugee is a person who is displaced from his/her community of origin because of a severe water shortage.]

The studio will investigate locating these one billion water refugees in a new series of urban environments where fresh water is abundant. The Great Lakes Basin holds 20% of the world's surface fresh water, yet it has just .01% of the world's population. Every second, the Great Lakes naturally release (via the St. Lawrence River) over 250,000 cubic feet of fresh water into the Atlantic Ocean. Can this water first be used and then later returned to the basin without interrupting the overall ecological system?

The studio will speculate on ways that the depopulated cities of the Rust Belt can be retroactively re-designed to accommodate one billion residents. At one time, Rust Belt cities attracted millions of immigrants. Today, the region is the fastest shrinking in the U.S. If designed well, one billion residents in the Great Lakes Basin means density, wealth, and power.

THE PROJECT

New cultural and ecological urban architectures need to be invented to accommodate this new density. We will explore ways to leverage new infrastructural systems that hybridize economies and ecologies. We will integrate our proposed systems into existing urban fabrics and communities, generating new architectures and landscapes in the process.

The studio will consider and explore the value of infrastructure not merely as an engineering endeavor, but as a robust design opportunity to strengthen communities and revitalize the city. Unlike the previous era, the next generation of such projects will require surgical integration into the existing urban fabric, and will work by intentionally linking systems of points, lines and landscapes, hybridizing economies with ecologies and over-lapping architecture with planning. These systems include but are not limited to public architecture, parks, schools, open space, roads, transportation, storm water, waste, food systems, recreation, local economies, 'green' infrastructure, markets, landfills, energy-generating facilities, cemeteries, and smart utilities.

We will affiliate ourselves with the WPA 2.0 competition sponsored by cityLAB (www.wpa2.aud.ucla.edu).

STUDIO FORMAT

We will examine multiple sites and scales of intervention. We will speculate on programmatic, performative, and formal possibilities. We will deploy these new hybrid architectures as prototypes, testing them in multiple locations.



Cleveland land use before UrbanLab



Cleveland land use after UrbanLab

Community Development & Neighborhood Transformation Peter Landon, Jeff Bone and Catherine Baker Studio

INTRODUCTION

This studio will be a community planning and housing design studio focusing on inclusionary design and Smart Growth Principles. We will investigate a variety of forces that will inform the design - social, economic, political, ecological and aesthetic.



THE PROJECT

Architectural design comes in response to an informed concept. In an urban context it is critical to study both the macro and the micro issues as each student explores the typologies of housing, light industrial workspace, and community buildings and makes a connection of those types with the techniques of urban planning and architectural form-making.

The studio will operate under these underlying assumptions:

- An exploration of mapping possibilities leading to a sophisticated analysis of the particular neighborhood
- A willingness to investigate and directly interact with community and community residents
- A willingness to consider the idea of sustainability and using less rather than more is a critical part of the goals of this studio. The intent is not to limit the planning and design to "affordable" or "green" solutions, but the hope is to investigate creative and innovative materials and techniques that will give rise to creative ideas and buildable solutions.

STUDIO FORMAT

The course will be a three stage effort toward an interactive urban plan that will revitalize and transform an existing Bronzeville/Washington Park neighborhood close to IIT in Chicago.

1. The first stage will be investigation of the site and users through mapping, resident interviews, historical and sociological study and drawings. Three teams will produce schematic site plans and a site model to be used by the entire studio as we move forward.
2. The second stage, completed in teams of two, will be to study and analyze precedents and case studies which can then be applied to the site and its constraints resulting in a series of studies that will help understand the scale and context of the site. By mid-term each student will choose a building typology as part of the integrated neighborhood concept, and for the mid-term review develop and present a concept and program of his or her idea.
3. The third stage, to be developed during the second 8 weeks of class, will be individual efforts resulting in intensive graphic and physical modeling of the site/building program conceptualized in the first half of the semester. Each student will design a building that will compliment and become part of the overall neighborhood transformation. Options will include a community center, a small apartment building across from the community center, a light industrial building that can be used as artist studios, small business offices, etc., and a group or combination of townhouses, row houses, and coach houses.

Waukegan Revitalization: Process and Planning Design Studio **Thomas McLeish Studio**

INTRODUCTION

Waukegan is located in Illinois, on the western shore of Lake Michigan. A city with great natural amenities, superb transit links, and strong associations with modern industries and pharmaceutical companies, it has nevertheless suffered the declining manufacturing base and the resultant demographic consequences. The downtown area is typified by empty storefronts, and under-utilized building stock. A proactive, engaged, and progressive planning department brings an impetus to revitalization to the city. They have commissioned redevelopment plans prepared by world class firms which have proven to be lacking effectiveness in the dynamics of development and community engagement.

THE PROJECT

The project is intended to investigate the advancement of digital technologies in the design, presentation, and documentation, at an urban scale, of holistic decision making. The breadth of the project goals accommodates excellence in a variety of initiatives; design, planning, environmental remediation, administration, research, and concept packaging. The requisite teamwork requirement highlights organizational and macro-planning competency.

The project may be considered an Ideas Competition of a very broad scope, with several real constituencies interested in the resultant proposals. One of the first conversations with City agencies will be the development of a design platform to remedy the failures of traditional master planning formats. The studio coursework will investigate the dynamic ability of digital environment to integrate iterative development scenarios while formatting the information to be accessible to the community for comment and, to some degree, for participation. Investigations of the platform will also seek to allow simultaneous participation by allied planners and administrators.

STUDIO FORMAT

The studio will investigate development opportunities and design interventions in the area, or a part thereof, covered by the SOM master plan. Prime consideration will be given to the downtown district. The studio will conduct several investigations in the resolution of the project:

- Site and User Analysis
- Policy and Planning Issues
- Use Options
- Planning Extensions
- Building Programming
- Building Design
- Project Documentation
- Project Promotion (Outline)



Intensification of Place: A Hybrid Urban Program Ross Wimer Studio

INTRODUCTION

One of the most compelling aspects of urban living is the diversity of uses that can be found within close proximity. The prototype for the future is not a residential building isolated from office and retail but rather a hybrid program on a compact site. This typology is becoming the norm across the globe.

THE PROJECT

The goal of this studio is to explore the synergies achievable with an urban mixed-use program and to test its commercial viability as well as visual expression.

Often a student project is done without the input from the real process that drives its economics. This studio will include weekly seminars that focus on the development process that will parallel the design exercise and inform it.

STUDIO FORMAT

Phase 1: Research

The first week of the term the studio will engage in research. The site and immediate context will be investigated in person, as well as historical photographs and maps. The initial economic strategy that drives the development proforma is introduced.

Phase 2: Workshop

The second week of the term will be an intensive high-rise design and engineering workshop. Structural, mechanical, and environmental engineering for high-rise towers will be the focus. Weekly development strategy seminars are introduced.

Phase 3: Design

Studio classes will include case study research as well as the typical desk critiques and pin-ups. The development seminars will focus on the economic and practical factors that shape urban developments.

Site:

1000 S. Clark, Chicago IL

Program:

Retail, Condominium, Office, Parking

Required production:

Site plan 1:500

Section 1:500

Elevations 1:500

Typical plans 1:500

Typical exterior wall 1:50

Model 1:500