**COLLABORATIVE URBAN DESIGN STUDIO I SPRING 2015**

**ARCH 7012**

Instructors: Richard Dagenhart, Tom Debo, Zorana Matic

Pin-Up Reviews – 1/14, 1/28, 2/6

Formal Reviews - TBA

The new non-profit organization, Chattahoochee Now, and the Georgia Conservancy are sponsoring this School of Architecture Urban Design/D+R Studio, Spring 2015. This studio will prepare a vision, physical framework and prospective architecture, landscape and urban design projects for Atlanta’s Chattahoochee River Park, a 53 mile corridor from Peachtree Creek on the north to the Chattahoochee Bend State Park on the south.

Chattahoochee Now, the Georgia Conservancy and this studio have these three aims:

**Re-imagine the River’s potential**: Unseen and largely inaccessible in the Atlanta region, the Chattahoochee River has become an abstract water source for area residents. While many advocacy and watch organizations have worked diligently to improve the river’s health, very little has been done to consider how it could become an asset and an economic development resource for the region. Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Denver are among the cities that are implementing significant plans to recognize the value of their rivers. Now is the time for our region to move the Chattahoochee River from the back door to a focal point.

**Re-capture the value of the River:** Healthy, functioning rivers are appealing and attractive to residents and businesses alike. Yet, the Chattahoochee River’s value to improve the livability and desirability of the region has yet to be fully realized. By regenerating our riverfront as a place where community and nature can coexist, the Chattahoochee River corridor can offer multi-generational destinations for research, culture, agriculture and habitats that will thrive in conjunction with places to live, eat, shop and work. By making the river a destination, we will differentiate the Atlanta region and create economic value for all jurisdictions. Now is the time to consider the river integral to recreational, educational, cultural, environmental and economic needs of the region.

**Re-connect neighborhoods and centers to the River**: The Chattahoochee River flows through four cities (Atlanta, Chattahoochee Hills, Douglasville, and Smyrna) and five counties – Carroll, Cobb, Coweta, Douglas, and Fulton – as it ventures from the southern terminus of the National Recreation Area south along a 53-mile stretch to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. Since the Chattahoochee River knows no political boundaries, a multijurisdictional approach is necessary to realize the river’s potential and reconnect neighborhoods and centers. Now is the time for a dedicated organization to organize resources to definitively create places and experiences that build stewardship for the river’s future health.

**ATLANTA’S CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERPARK**

…….. *Large parks afford a rich array of social activities and interactions that help to forge community, citizenship, and belonging in dense and busy cities. Their scale allows for dramatic exposure to the elements, to weather, geology, open horizons, and thick vegetation, all revealed to the ambulant body in alternating sequences of prospect and refuge – distinctive places for overview and survey, woven with more intimate spots of retreat and*

*isolation. These huge experimental reserves are the great outdoor theaters of the city, stages for the performance of nature and cyclical time alongside the reveries of social use and event. Large parks are priceless, and those cities that do not have an effectively designed one will always be the poorer …….. In addition to these experiential and cultural effects, large parks are also valued for their ecological functions. These vast tracks of land are effective in helping to store and process stormwater, to channel and cool air temperature in the urban core, and to provide habitat for rich ecology or plant, animal, bird, aquatic and microbial life. To use an old but still relevant analogy, large parks function as “green lungs,” cleansing, refreshing and enriching life in the metropolis.*

James Corner, writing in the Forward of *Large Parks:*

Paris has the Bois de Bologna. London has Hyde Park. Amsterdam has the Bos. New York

has Central Park. A great must have a great park, large enough to create the city, complete it, amplify it. Paris has the Seine. London has the Thames. Amsterdam has the IJsselmeer. New

York has the Hudson. A great city must have a great river to create the city, complete it,

amplfy it.

If Atlanta is ever to become a great city, it must have a great park and it must have a great river. Today, Atlanta has neither. Imagine both: Atlanta’s Chattahoochee RIVERPARK, weaving 53 miles of river and park with the existing and future Great City of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Beltline, inspired by Promenade Plantee’ in Paris and stimulated by the Highline in NYC, is helping us to re-imagine the City of Atlanta. The Chattahoochee RIVERPARK, inspired by the Germany’s Emscher Landscape Park and stimulated by many contemporary parks and rivers across the globe will enable us to re-imagine the future Metropolis of Atlanta.

**DESIGNING ATLANTA’S CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERPARK**

*Parks after all are not simply natural or found places; they are constructed, built and cultivated –* ***designed.*** *As design is subject to geometrical, material, and organizational invention, large parks do not have to simulate pastoralism of rural scenery, and neither to they have to embody the beaux-arts formality of axes and planes. Consequently, the design of large parks remains an open question, one that each designer beginning a new project must ask……The crux of the question concerns the relative attention a designer must pay to fixed form versus open ended process, or more precisely the ratio and interaction between these two parts of the large park equation. Added to this equation is a third -- of meaning and content.*

*Large parks will always exceed singular narratives. They are larger than the designer’s will for authorship, they exceed over-regulation and contrivance, and they always involve into more multifarious (and unpredictable) formations than anyone could have envisaged at the outset ….... If this staged groundwork is too constrained or too mannered, it will eventually calcify under the weight of its own construction; if it is too loose or too open or too weak, it will eventually lose any form or legibility or order. The trick is to design a large park framework that is sufficiently robust to lend structure and identity while also having sufficient pliancy and “give” to adapt to changing demands and ecologies over time.*

*If a design cannot demonstrably do this, the result will be the typical bland, populist, pastoral pastiche that passes for most ‘recreational open space’ today, with none of the grandeur, theatricality, novelty or sheer experiential power of real large parks.*

James Corner, writing in the Forward of *Large Parks:*

**STUDIO WORK PROGRAM**

Designing the Chattahoochee RIVERPARK will involve several parts, some work in teams and some individually, but all collaboratively. We are designing a vision, a framework and a collection of project proposals to make the vision visible to Chattahoochee Now, the Georgia Conservancy and the Chattahoochee Stakeholders.

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will leave the studio:

• Understanding historic and contemporary large parks and waterfront design from global case studies of projects as well as specific design interventions.

• Understanding ecological analysis, with particular reference to environmental processes, river morphology and stormwater.

• Understanding of physical environmental analysis of urban, suburban, and rural form, including the nested relationships of land form, property subdivision, the public domain of connectivity and place, and private buildings.

• Understanding real estate markets and their regulation through municipal, county, state and national legal frameworks.

• Ability to design strategic frameworks for large projects, based on knowledge of case studies, ecological analyses, urban form analyses.

• Ability to prepare precise urban design, landscape and building program and design proposals for implementation of the project strategic framework.

**Studio Projects (See attachments for descriptions of specific work tasks)**

Project 1: The River Park Framework

Case Studies and Analyses of Large Park Frameworks. Overview of the River History, Morphology, etc.

GIS Data to Establish River Geometries and Suitabilities

Aerial Photos

Topography, Floodplains and Wetlands Watersheds and Nested Hydrologic Units Land Parcels,

Political Boundaries

Infrastructure – Roads, Railroads, Bridges, Power and Pipe Lines

Transportation Access Isocurves

Solar and Viewshed Mapping

Land Uses

Real Estate Markets, Land Ownership, Subdivision Morphologies and

Development Influences

Legal and Regulatory Situations (ARC, MRPA, Municipal/County Ordinances) Recommended River Park Boundaries

Strategic Framework Alternatives

Establish the RIVERPARK framework

Project 2: Global Solutions Catalog

River Park Specific Landscape and Building Projects *(see River.Space.Design*

*and projects in the US, including Los Angeles, Denver, Minneapolis and others)*

Project 3: Prospective Projects (Each design student to prepare multiple projects)

Individual Landscape and Building Design Projects for the Chattahoochee River Park

*(All MSUD and M.ARCH students Plus)*

Standing Peachtree

Landfill

Bridges – Auto, Pedestrian, Wildlife

Overlooks

Boardwalks and Trails

Floodplain Management

Riparian Installations of Various Types

Kayak Stations/Storage/Rental/Courses Mountain Bike Stations/Rental/Trails Amphitheater – theater/music venue Swimming Installations

Hamlet/Housing Design

Industrial Building Reuse

And others to be discovered.

Project 4: Watershed Morphology, Analysis and Urban Design+Stormwater Design

Strategies and Project Proposals.

*(All Students in teams of 2)*

Project 5: The Chattahoochee RIVERPARK Vision (incorporating all the above)

*(All CRP Students Plus)*

**NOTES**

**See the School of Architecture and School of City and Regional Planning Lecture**

**Series and plan to attend. When SoA has a lecture at 2pm Wednesdays, the studio will meet at 3.30 pm.**

**Research and reading materials will be place on T-Square. All studio files will be saved in the Course Folder and organized carefully to preserve original files and plot files. Zorana will be responsible for file structures and organization throughout the semester.**

The studio will publish a “book” in some form at the end of the semester. This book will be designed, organized and produced week by week in the studio so it is completed at the end of the semester.

The work produced in workshop is the property of Georgia Tech and will be collected for archival purposes, for representation in accrediting process or for other purposes. In future publications of the studio work, all students will be credited.

Students with Disabilities who need to request classroom accommodations should contact:

Dan Carlson, Assistant Dean / Coordinator for Students with Disabilities

Smithgall Student Services Building, Suite 221

Telephone: 404 894 2564

E-mail: [dan.carlson@vpss.gatech.edu](mailto:dan.carlson@vpss.gatech.edu)

In case of emergency (i.e. fire, accident, criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at

894-2500. Please note that Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator is a firefighter and an

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified in performing CPR.

Attendance, participation, timely completion of work, the depth of engagement in workshop issues provides the foundation for grades.

• A grade of “F” indicates a failure to meet studio requirements,

• A grade of “D” means a student has not met the basic requirements of the studio, although some of the work is acceptable.

• A grade of “C” means a student has met the basic requirements of the studio, although the quality of work is lacking or poor attendance and low participation resulted in other students having to produce more work.

• A grade of “B” means a student has met all of the requirements of the studio in both quality and quantity, has completed the work in a timely way, participated eagerly and productively in the studio, and worked collaboratively and effectively with others.

• **A grade of “A” means a students has fully met the requirements of the studio and has gone beyond expectations, with very high quality of research, writing, collaboration and participation**.

Midterm grades will be assigned and your instructor will notify/counsel any student concerning any necessary action to be taken concerning the semester Drop Day. Please refer to the Institute handbook regarding disputes concerning grades.

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and

honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For policy information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please see [<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules_regulations/#18>].

Students are asked to complete the online course evaluation of all courses at Georgia Tech at the end of the term.

Please consult the Georgia Tech Student Handbook regarding the use of facilities and all

Institute policies.

PROJECT 1 – THE RIVERPARK FRAMEWORK

Task 0: Design the Book – dimension, format, graphics, type, etc. Mock up. (*Two persons – due 1/14.)*

Task 1: Comparative Case Studies of Rivers and Parks. (Draft 1)

Task 1 a: Comparisons watershed, park dimensions and acres, morphology, political framework,, design framework and key projects/places, development timeline, etc. *(Three + two persons from Task )– due 1/12)(Source: Emscher Landscape Park and Internet)*

Emscher Landscape Park, Ruhr Valley, Dortmund, Germany Hudson River Park , NYC, Michael Van Valkenburgh Guadalupe River Park, San Jose, Hargreaves Associates Schuylkill Banks and Fairmont Park, Philadelphia

Los Angeles River Greenway, LA. Cheonggyecheon River, Seoul, Korea South Platte River Restoration, Denver James River Park, Richmond

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Minneapolis

Task 1 b: Comparative Case Studies of Large Parks

Comparisons park dimensions and acres, morphology, political framework, design framework and key projects/places, development timeline, etc.

*One person – due 1/14) (Source: Large Parks and*

Bois de Bologna, Paris Hyde Park, London Amsterdam Bos, Amsterdam Central Park, NYC

Task 1 c: Contemporary Case Studies of Large Parks

Comparisions park dimensions and acres, morphology, political framework, design framework and key projects, development timeline, etc.

*(One person – due 1/14) (Source: Internet*

Fresh Kills Park and Competiton, NYC Downsview Park and Competition, Toronto Others?

Task 2. The River – History, Geography, Watershed, Morphology.

Task 2 a: Comparisons to scale with American rivers (Hudson, Guadalupe, Schuylkill, LA, South Platte, James, Mississippi) including both watershed and length. Add other rivers for reference if needed – Europe and Asia.

*(One Person - 1/30)*

Task 2 b: Documentation of the Chattahoochee, Flint, Apalachicola River and Watershed, its history, morphology, characteristics to put the studio study area in context.

*(0ne person – 1/30)*

Task 3: GIS Data to Establish River and Studio Study Area Geometries and Suitabilities

Task 3 a: Mapping of key data for the Study Area, including,

Environment GIS Data from UGa. Study

Framework Layers from GIS Data (1”=2000’) Aerial Photos

Topography, Streams, Floodplains, Wetlands

Watersheds and Nested Hydrologic Units

Land Parcels

Political Boundaries

Infrastructure – Roads, Railroads, Bridges, Power and Pipe Lines

USGS Quadrangle Maps-plotted (1’-2000’ USSCS Soil Maps (TBD)

*(One person – 1/30)*

Task 3 b: Chattahoochee River Morphology

Use the book *River.Space.Design* and prepare morphological descriptions and design strategies for the Chattahoochee.

*(Two persons – 1/30)*

Task 4: Economic Development Background

Task 4 a: Land Use and Development Potentials and Issues

*(One person – 1-30)*

Task 4 b: Legal and Regulatory Situations (ARC, MRPA, Municipal/County

Ordinances and others.)

*(One person – 1/30)*

Task 5: The RIVERPARK Boundaries and Strategic Alternatives.

*(All – 2/6)*

PROJECT 2: GLOBAL SOLUTIONS CATALOG

Task 1: Develop Preliminary List Program Types from other River Parks nationally and internationally and organize Task 2 for presentation)

*(Two persons – 2/6)*

Task 2: (Draft 1) Collect design solutions for each type to demonstrate the design opportunities for strategic projects in a river park, specifically related to the Chattahoochee situation. Include the location, project type, brief description, author/designer (if known) and three graphics.

(Use River.Space.Design and the beginning source for this exercise and then move to other sources from river parks, parks, and other projects.)

*(All 2/6)*

PROJECTS 3,4,5 TBD