

Roosevelt Island HP Studio

Search this site

Description **Syllabus** History Photos Contact Info

*** The syllabus may change throughout the semester as we confirm additional guest lecturers, as needed**

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES: RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

Week 1 – WHAT IS AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN?

Thursday, Jan 23rd: General Introduction

Reading assignment: Review & critique of past Studio II final plans

Week 2 – INTRODUCTION TO ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Monday, Jan 27th: WALKING TOUR of Roosevelt Island with Judy Berdy (Roosevelt Island Historical Society). Meet at the Roosevelt Island F train station at 2pm.

Thursday, Jan 30th: In-class review & critique of past Studio II final project and discussion about Roosevelt Island

Week 3 – THE UDC AND ‘NEW TOWN IN TOWN’

Monday, Feb 3rd

Reading assignments: <http://urbanomnibus.net/2012/07/a-few-days-in-the-bronx-from-co-op-city-to-twin-parks/>, <http://www.udchousing.org>

Thursday, Feb 6th: 3-5pm, Meet in Avery 114. In-class discussion with Theodore Liebman (Former UDC Chief of Architecture)

Week 4 – ASSESSING COMMUNITY VALUES

Monday, Feb 10th:

Thursday, Feb 13th: Snow day.

Week 5 – PRESERVATION LEGISLATION: EXISTING TOOLS

Monday, Feb 17th: Studio pin up.

Thursday, Feb 20th: 3-6pm, Meet in 321M Fayerweather. In-class discussion with Laxmi Ramasubramanian (Associate Professor of Planning and Design at Hunter College). Student presentations on work-in-progress.

Week 6 – CONSERVATION ISSUES

Monday, Feb 24th: WALKING TOUR with Chris Gembinski, 4-6pm. Meet at Roosevelt Island F train stop at 3:45pm.

Thursday, Feb 27th: WALKING TOUR with Ashok Bhavnani (Johansen & Bhanani architects), 2:15-6pm. Meet at Rivercross at 2:15pm.

Week 7 – INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATION

Monday, Mar 3rd: 2-6pm, Meet in Conservation Science Lab. In-class working session.

Thursday, Mar 6th: 2pm, Meet in Studio. In-class working session.

Week 8 – MIDTERM REVIEW

Monday, Mar 10th: 3-6pm, Meet in Conservation Science Lab. Dry run of mid-term presentation and in-class working session.

Thursday, Mar 13th: Midterm review, presentation to faculty and guests. Guests include Judy Berdy, Ashok Bhavnani, Marianne Russem, Mary Kay Judy (architectural conservator), Alan G. Brake (executive editor, Architects Newspaper)

DEVELOPING A PRESERVATION PLAN**Week 9 – INFRASTRUCTURE AND FDR FOUR FREEDOMS PARK**

Monday, Mar 24th: 2-4pm, Meet in conservation lab. In-class discussion with Juliette Spertus, curator Fast Trash

Thursday, Mar 27th: WALKING TOUR of the FDR Four Freedoms Park with Gina Pollara, 2:30-4:30pm. Meet at entrance of Park at 2:30pm.

Week 10 – FUTURE INITIATIVES

Monday, Mar 31st: 2:30-3:30pm, Meet at Cornell Tech (Google building, 111 8th Avenue, #302) for discussion with Andrew Winters, Director of Capital Projects and Planning)

Thursday, Apr 3rd: On campus work day. Orientation for newly admitted students and opportunity for them to visit studio.

Week 11 – PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Monday, Apr 7th: 2-4pm, Meet in conservation lab. In-class discussion on ideas of tabula rasa planning with Anthony Max Tung, author Preserving the World's Great Cities

Thursday, Apr 10th: In class work day

Week 12

Monday, Apr 14th: Studio pin up

Thursday, Apr 17th:

Week 13

Monday, Apr 21st:

Thursday, Apr 24th:

Week 14

Monday, Apr 28th:

Thursday, May 1st: Practice final presentation with guest critic Catherine Gavin, editor of Texas Architect and graduate of HP program

Week 15

Monday, May 5th (all day): Final review, presentation to faculty and guests

Friday, May 9th: Final assignments due no later than 3pm

[Sign in](#) | [Recent Site Activity](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Print Page](#) | Powered By [Google Sites](#)

Roosevelt Island HP Studio

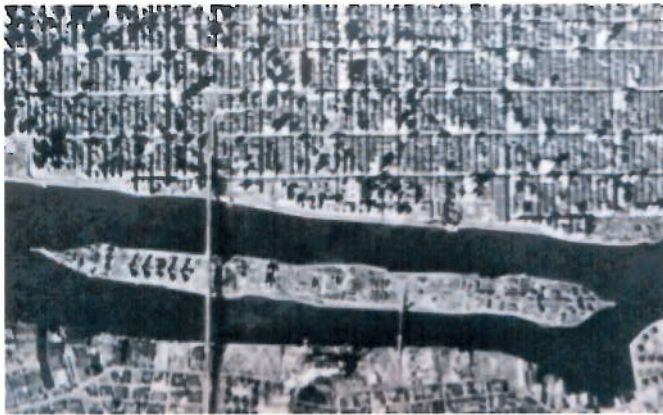
Search this site[Description](#) [Syllabus](#) [History](#) [Photos](#) [Contact Info](#)

ROOSEVELT ISLAND: PRESERVING URBAN DESIGN AND INNOVATION

Since the late 19th century, the two-mile-long, 147-acre island located just 300 yards from both Manhattan and Queens has been a laboratory for social experimentation that has manifested itself in built forms. The Dutch originally referred to this sliver of land as *Varcken Eylandt* (Hog's Island). It was later named after the English captain John Manning, and in 1686, it was again renamed after Manning's son-in-law Robert Blackwell. The City purchased the land in 1828 and began to build institutions, from prisons to workhouses to hospitals. In 1921 the City rechristened the island as Welfare Island in to reflect the mission of these various institutions.

In the late 1960s, as the City's economy collapsed, urban planners began to rethink the island. In 1969, the New York State Urban Development Corporation, established to help renew cities and towns throughout the State, signed a 99-year lease with the City and shortly thereafter redevelopment plans for Welfare Island were announced. The master plan for this 'New-Town-In-Town' residential community, designed by Philip Johnson and John Burgee, called for 5,000 apartment units – both market-rate and publicly-assisted – to house approximately 20,000 people. The "utopian" plan envisioned a car-free island, with a centralized pneumatic garbage collection system, a commercial corridor, public spaces and a waterfront promenade. Several 19th-century landmarks were to be restored and preserved.

By 1975 financial difficulties halted construction and only the first phase of construction was completed in conformance with the Master Plan. Construction was also halted on the Louis Kahn-designed Roosevelt Memorial (completed 38 years later, in 2012) at the island's southern tip.



Johnson and Burgee Architects. NYS Urban Development Corporation, 1969
Merrill, 2011

Cornell/Technion Consortium by Skidmore Owings &

Today, Roosevelt Island is again being re-imagined on a large scale. The new Cornell NYC Tech campus is scheduled to open in 2017 on the grounds of the former Goldwater Hospital, which is slated for demolition later this year (it's WPA murals will be preserved). The master campus plan is designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, with the first academic building designed by Thom Mayne and Morphosis Architects. The campus will occupy nearly 12 acres with a 2.1 million square foot build-out when completed in 2037.

The new plan for the island presents both opportunities and challenges. What is our role as preservationists in helping to protect the historic character of the island, and shape its future? The first half of the semester will be devoted to research and documentation, and will focus on relevant social history. The students will meet with architects involved in the original UDC scheme, representatives of Cornell NYC Tech, members of the local historical society, and other stakeholders both on and off the island.

In the second half of the semester students will arrive at a statement of significance for the area and develop a preservation plan. Topics for consideration may include preserving modern architecture, historic infrastructure, and public space; preparing local and national nominations; addressing the needs of current island residents; developing interpretive strategies; understanding issues of governance; and more.