

CourseNo: ARCHA6850_001_2013_3

Meeting Location: RTBA

Meeting Time: MWF 02:00P-06:00P

A6850 Urban Design Studio II

Skye Duncan, Justin G. Moore, Coordinators; Lee Altman, Danielle Choi, Alison Duncan, Dongsei Kim, Christopher Kroner, Sandro Marpillero, and Visitors

The second Urban Design Studio builds on the summer studio, in accepting the premise that the practice of Urban Design is fundamentally interdisciplinary and collaborative. It is the result of a kinetic relationship between physical design, environmental considerations, public policy, culture and economy that operate at scales that often exceed the limits of a specific site, a city, or a region. The studio collectively examines the influence exerted by these various factors, and the immense impact they have in contributing to an urban environment conditions, including its public and private spaces, its programs, and the perceived quality-of-life for its communities.

The studio's primary pedagogy advocates for simultaneous, collaborative research, and the development of design thinking and concepts as generative ingredients of new and alternative ways through which viable, vital urban environments are understood and conceived. A fundamental aim is to challenge the default mode of approaching architecture, landscape, infrastructure, planning and policy as isolated disciplines, and to examine the opportunities for overlap such that all are evolved in concert with one another in order to foster the best possible effect. The studio also recognizes the unique relationship of the New York region to its natural environment, physical infrastructure, built legacy and social fabric that has supported its vitality and defined its character over time. Through carefully developed and substantiated design proposals, the studio examines and challenges the ways in which cities' and their regions' various infrastructures, socio-cultural diversities and their political context can come together intelligently, responsibly and experientially.

The exploration of the “American City” throughout the semester’s research and design work is established through ongoing inquiry and referencing of various North American cities. The studio has a topical emphasis that provides a lens through which each student, research team and design group can explore the varied issues, contexts and questions in the way that they influence urban design. Through the development of multi-scalar, site-specific design proposals for the New York metropolitan region and its’ urban communities, students will propose, test, and refine a variety of design hypotheses and explorations. The studio also works to acknowledge and develop the necessary understanding and techniques for articulating layers of information, complexity, and systems. Through navigating design ideas across multiple time frames, and narratives, various visual representation techniques are utilized to communicate a range of scales that reach from regional systems to the human-scale experience of place.