Emerging • Living • Connections

Instructor: Tom Hahn

“Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy, and just world, with clean air, water, soil and power—economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed.”

- William McDonough

"In an organic environment, every place is unique, and the different places also cooperate, with no parts left over, to create a global whole - a whole which can be identified by everyone who is part of it.”

- Christopher Alexander

This studio will explore the ways a community works as a system, how it evolves, and how highly-integrative design solutions can arise, in response to the ecology of that place, to promote increased sustainability and resilience in the face of uncertain change. We will consider concepts such as Ecological Urbanism, Green Infrastructure, Transit-Oriented Development, and Systems Thinking, in emerging holistic solutions for sites and buildings that can become part of a connected, living network. As an underlying framework, we will be working with the City’s “Envision Eugene” guidelines and other supporting studies. We will also be exploring the issues, and employing the submission structure, of the 2017 AIA-COTE Top Ten for Students Competition.

The studio project will be to develop designs for a mixed-use complex of programs that will act as a regenerative impulse within the neighborhood – in support of the visions of the community and the City – while embracing the overarching design considerations above. The primary site surrounds a future LTD transit hub, though other sites might emerge as we develop the project. While the ultimate program(s) will be determined from an analysis of ecology of place and community goals, the mix might include community education space, micro-commercial, maker-space, co-op housing, childcare, local-food service, community gardens, or possibly district power or water systems. Projects will also seek to employ passive design, renewable energy, water efficiency, environmental materials, alternative transportation and carbon-neutrality.

We will begin with a collaborative exploration of the greater neighborhood ecology: that of the environmental, the economical, the experiential, and the ethnological. Concurrent will be field trips to, and precedent studies of, relevant similar environments and entities, and meetings with constituent stakeholders. Design will be a friendly competition between teams in the studio, each developing their own proposals for the project. Masterplanning and programming will be done by each team, followed by coordinated design of buildings and site, within a team’s plan, as individuals or in pairs. The work will be presented along the way to city representatives, local residents, and members of the development and business community, with the final presentation formally rated by the reviewers. Class will include studio, lectures, readings, group discussions, and field trips.