

# The Architecture of Transition

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON // COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO // 2018-2019

# BORA

Portland is struggling with the consequences of its success. Rising housing costs are forcing our poorest residents to relocate to more affordable parts of the metro area, with a significant proportion migrating from the city to “East County” - Rockwood, Gresham and other communities east of the city boundaries. Metro-area leaders are beginning to grapple challenges including access to transportation, infrastructure improvements, social service challenges, and language and education barriers for large refugee communities.

This project will take two building types that are essential for successful communities - affordable housing and libraries - and plan a hub site in East County to spark future investment in healthy urban development. Multnomah County Library has already begun to consider these challenges in its 2017 Framework, and the current housing crisis has been the subject of several high profile reports. Our work will study the implications of transition at various scales and moments. We will ask: what does affordable housing look like, for different generations, ethnicities and family structure? What is the role of a library in today's society? What does the future hold for each of these building types?

The studio format will use a single site as a vehicle for this study, and within the framework of a well-structured year you'll have the opportunity to work on areas of interest specific to your chosen focus - affordable housing OR library design. The year will be structured in the following manner:

## Fall Term 2018

A 2-credit seminar will require collective research and documentation of issues influencing Portland's housing crisis, contemporary theories relating to library design and affordable housing solutions. We'll meet with community leaders and investigate site options, and the outcome will be a pre-design report, a program, and final site selection.

## Winter Term 2019

The first of two studio terms, this 10 week effort will begin with Master Planning for the selected East County site, to include housing, the library, parking, loading, and open space amenities, all considered through multiple lenses including sustainable design and equity. After mid terms each student will select either the housing or the library, and develop this component in more detail, along with a refined Master Plan.

## Spring Term 2019

The final term will focus on design development. Students will consider structural and mechanical systems, building enclosure, landscape design, and other factors that will inform and influence their final solutions. Bora will bring consultants partners to studio on several occasions to coach students in a workshop setting.



*Idea Store, Adjaye Associates*

## Studio Format

Led by Bora Architects, this studio will be fast-paced and intensive. Students will be expected to bring multiple design options to many reviews. You will work with traditional media as well as computer-driven design, and we expect effective communication, with a focus on narrative and story-telling to support your presentations. Active studio participation is required, and students are expected to engage and support one another's academic development.

## Studio Coordinator

Bora's Becca Cavell, FAIA has over 25 years of experience, working in the realms of public and higher education. She has led UO design studios on several occasions. Bora Architects will host mid term reviews and many of its staff will participate in reviews throughout the year. Questions? e-mail Becca at [cavell@bora.co](mailto:cavell@bora.co) or call her at (503) 593-2751

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