

TOPIC

Ideas about the future of education, teaching, and access to life-long knowledge are evolving. Contemporary debates about how to best prepare coming generations for a future filled with new jobs, skills requirements, and environmental challenges call for new pedagogical concepts about project based learning and life-long learning options that allow for educational facilities to meet the needs of their broader community. **Can debates about the future of education be tested in the built form?** How can the design of a school respond to the complexity of learning ecologies that go beyond the traditional teacher – student exchange and the school walls?

This studio will guide students to develop an understanding of what is a contemporary learning environment (learning ecology) and how it could evolve in future through the design of an elementary and secondary school facility. **Understanding space as the ‘third teacher,’ we will explore how a symbiotic architectural and educational agenda can converge and shape a building to become a three-dimensional curriculum plan.**



COURSE REQUIREMENT FALL PREPARATION COURSE ARCH 4/507

MAIN GOALS (ARCH 4/507)

- Acquire a broad knowledge of different educational approaches (pedagogies), learning spaces, and school design
- Conduct a detailed site analysis, understanding the urban ecology of the area and the role of large infrastructure
- Develop a thesis and define a corresponding building program
- Create a class booklet that will serve as the project base and main resource for studio

METHODOLOGY (ARCH 4/507)

- Seminars based on case studies analysis, assigned readings, guest speakers
- Iterative, non-linear, design exercises examining school typology (aggregation of classroom units, relation to common spaces, circulation), and the relation between learning methods and space, that will involve producing a series of drawings and conceptual models

CONTEXT

Few places have a natural and infrastructural feature so vital to their development, yet left oversights, like the **Los Angeles River** is for the Los Angeles basin. The L.A. River flows 51 miles through the most densely populated areas in the country, ethnically and economically diverse communities, industrialized areas, and new parks and greenways. Once a natural river, it was paved in the 1930s as a design and civil engineering measure to control devastating floods. In recent decades, new claims and attention on the river are seen as a commodity and opportunity for redevelopment based on high-end mixed-use development. This studio will examine several sites along the river within the city limits of **Long Beach**, where less acute pressure (compared to the upstream segments in the City of Los Angeles) for redevelopment gives an opportunity to rethink revitalization through an active educational facility. **The design will draw on lessons from this complex cultural resource to leverage the learning needs of its adjacent communities** – some of the most diverse census tracts in the U.S.

