

Instructor: Tom Hahn

Gather • Connect • Enliven



"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 place within a community can emerge as its center, a bright beacon drawing existing social energy to it, while providing an armature for new community life to develop and stretch out from it, becoming an evolving node in a strengthening urban fabric. We will explore how highly-integrative design solutions can arise, in response to the ecology of a place, to promote increased sustainability and resilience in the face of uncertain change. We will consider concepts such as Ecological Urbanism, Active and Alternative Transportation, Green Infrastructure, and Emergent Design, in developing holistic solutions for sites and buildings that can become part of a connected, living network within community. We will be working with two non-profit community development agencies, Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) and Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS), on a property they are developing as part of revitalizing the South Corvallis neighborhood.



The studio explorations will focus on developing a masterplan and buildings within a mixed-use complex of programs, and then developing select buildings and sites further as specific architectural projects. The intent is that the combined solutions will act as a new and regenerative community node for South Corvallis while embracing the overarching design considerations listed above. Though the ultimate program(s) will be determined from an analysis of ecology of place and community goals, the mix might include community grocery store, micro-commercial, maker- and artist-space, co-op housing, childcare, local-food service, community gardens, and possibly district power or water systems. Projects will specifically strive 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 community 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. Site programming and masterplan design will be a friendly competition between teams in the studio, each developing their own proposals for the overall project. This will be followed by coordinated but individual design of specific buildings and sites, within each team's masterplan. The work will be presented along the way to NEDCO/WNHS representatives, local stakeholders, and members of the community, with the final presentation formally rated by the reviewers. Class will include studio, lectures, readings, group discussions, and field trips.