

INSTRUCTOR KAARIN KNUDSON, AIA
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just city. just future.

INCLUSIVE ARCHITECTURE + URBAN DESIGN

This studio will address sustainable urban design and the architecture of civic life in an era of climatic, demographic and technological disruption. As structural inequalities, ecological degradation, and ongoing crises push people farther apart, design at all scales can be leveraged to reboot systems, repair a damaged urban context, bridge divides, and bring communities together.

PROPOSAL

Students will work from the urban design scale to the detailed development of a single building. Working in teams, students will develop the master plan for a multi-block, previously developed site. Within this mixed-use neighborhood, each student will design new Center for Democracy & Environmental Justice.

Fall Seminar

Fall term will be focused on research, case studies, programming, and site selection. Research and readings will address systems thinking, adaptive and translational leadership, environmental justice, and sustainable urban design. Case studies will be completed to develop the shared project program. The studio will choose between project sites by the end of the fall term.

Winter Studio: Urban Design + Architectural Concepts

Students will work in teams to develop a district- and block-scale framework. Urban design proposals will focus on establishing an equitable and regenerative redevelopment plan that integrates social infrastructure within a mixed-income neighborhood.

Spring Studio: Architectural Development

Spring term will focus intensively on the development of a comprehensive building design. Weekly studies and in-studio charrettes will guide students through the design process. An emphasis will be placed on extending passive strategies from the urban scale to the building scale. By the conclusion of spring term, students will have developed a district-scale master plan and a comprehensive building proposal.

Studio Structure

This studio will be structured, collaborative, energetic and challenging. Every week will include individual desk crits and full-studio pinups. Weekly prompts will push students to articulate design ideas, complete iterations, and explore media.

Kaarin Knudson, AIA, is principal and partner of Larco/Knudson, and she has taught design studios and urban design coursework over the past decade while in full-time practice. Her work has won regional and national awards at the interior, building, campus and urban scales.