

Cultivating the Community Commons: Climate, Culture, Craft

Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2015 [Larch 501/Arch503]

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With Gehl Architects/Ciitek: Bianca Hermansen



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The International Living Futures Institute's (ILFI) new Living Community Challenge sets the standard for a Living Community that is "socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically restorative" through the metrics of place, water, energy, health and happiness, materials, equity and beauty. Such a metric system incorporates the Quality Criteria for public space used by Gehl Architects and expands them to incorporate environmental and social equity aspirations.

This term we will be working with ILFI's framework and the organization's designated First Hill Living Community. We will apply the framework to a subdistrict and site that is adjacent to Bailey Gatzert Elementary School, and at the nexus of several diverse urban communities: the Squire Park Neighborhood, Little Saigon, Yesler Terrace, a substantial homeless population, Seattle University, and numerous ethnic populations.

Our ScanIDesign Master Studio is inspired by Copenhagen's approach to neighborhood "lifting" by providing arts and cultural facilities in every neighborhood for all ages, and the city's approach to conjoin climate resilience with cultivation of a good and equitable city. We will apply site program ideas from our travels, from children's arts centers, to vertical schools, to urban productive gardens and "cloudburst" parks. The selected project site and surrounding neighborhood in the First Hill district is destined to change in the next decades as the neighborhood intensifies, with streets already beginning to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and trolley transit, and we will consider the public life -- both moving through and staying in -- in the public realm of streets, parks and leftover spaces. The final design will be developed at all scales and show detailed and integrated resolution at the levels of district, site and building.

We have a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration, and plan for individuals from each of the three disciplines to work together to analyze, conceptualize, and develop integrated and comprehensive designs throughout the term. During the term, our Master Studio will benefit from the involvement of Bianca Hermansen, formerly with Gehl Architects and now with her own firm, Cititek. Throughout the quarter, we'll build on the Copenhagen study tour by referencing examples from our travels and employing and expanding on Gehl's public life / public space principles. We will also benefit from the interaction with ILFI staff, professionals and community interests.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- to practice site and district analysis methods
- to explore strategies for creating a democratic public realm that is ecological, resilient, regenerative, playful and just;
- to explore, implement and expand on Gehl Architects' urban design concepts and methods to promote a lively urban realm;
- to develop and apply ecological infrastructural planning and design to foster vibrant and green urbanism, addressing future challenges such as climate change;
- to practice the creative act of developing and transforming program ideas into integrated, responsive designed form;
- to apply evaluation metrics to anticipate actual social, environmental and/or economic performance of design interventions;
- to develop clear and compelling graphic and verbal communication skills;
- to practice working effectively in interdisciplinary teams;

- to practice working at all scales, using both large and small scales simultaneously to each inform the other.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the culmination of the studio, students will:

- be facile with implementing recognized public space planning principles and design criteria
- have advanced personal planning, design and design communication skills
- have gained an appreciation for and ease with language used by related design disciplines
- have increased insight and skill for working in teams

STUDIO PROCESS and EXPECTATIONS

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 to 5:20 for *group presentations, discussions, field trips, working time and team desk critiques*. Occasionally we'll go beyond these times for special events and work times. This term you will primarily work in groups on analysis/interpretation and conceptual planning/design level endeavors, with and in small groups, pairs or individually at the detailed design scale. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled class time, and to participate as a full member in your teamwork. When Bianca Hermansen is scheduled to be in town, we expect you to be in studio at all times, and plan on slightly longer days and scheduled sessions outside of class time to best make use of her limited time with us (recognizing conflicting work and school commitments). This may require some planning, such as Tuesdays and Thursday desk crit times.

You are highly encouraged to continue your sketchbook from Copenhagen (or start a new one) that documents your research and design explorations. Consider including your research and design process, notes from readings, class discussions and community meetings, solutions seen, heard, and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

The required book for the term is Jan Gehl's most recent, *Cities for People*. An optional text, *Ecological Design* (Rottle and Yocom) is recommended. We have developed an extensive list of Resources, many of which are on Reserve in the CBE Library and on-line (see attached). Over the term we'll compile a studio library to support your work, and you are encouraged to share new resources with each other as you discover them.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://courses.washington.edu/gehlstud/>

Course Share Space:

The share space for our course is on Google Drive. The course folder is **2015 S|D Master Studio**. Google Drive is very user friendly. For anyone interested in becoming more familiar with how Google Drive works feel free to avail yourselves of the numerous tutorials online or approach Hailey with specific questions. Here's a good place to start:

<https://support.google.com/drive/?hl=en#topic=14940>.

You will need to have your own Google Drive account in order to access the class files. UW administers its mail and file sharing through Google so you can access a Drive account that way, or if you already have a Gmail account we can share the files with you there. The 2015 S|D Master Studio folder will be shared with everyone's UW email addresses by default, since those

will allow you to access Google Drive, but if you prefer another Gmail address simply request an invitation.

The 2015 SJD Master Studio Drive folder will be shared with all students, with some files editable and others not. Since everything that you share could potentially be edited/removed/otherwise changed by other members of the group, **do not store your original files on the class Drive.** Please share copies (exact duplicates) of your work and store the original files elsewhere for safekeeping. We will happily advise on storage systems if anyone would like help safely and conveniently storing their files. This is very important to note: **once you have added the class Drive folder to your personal Google Drive everything you do in that folder affects the rest of the class** (editing and removing files, etc.).

STUDIO EVALUATION (C/NC)

Evaluation will be both from guest reviewers and faculty throughout the quarter, with written comments provided at the end of the term. We may also elect to conduct peer evaluations for group work.

Required at the end of term:

- **Digital upload of your project files and book pages, including scans of your process work**
- **Your final printed posters**
- **Printouts of your book pages**
- **Final posters and process work uploaded to the Landscape Architecture archives**

Resources:

International Living Futures/Living Community Challenge website: <http://living-future.org/lcc>

ILFI Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hljv4t2ghau3rij/AAAnwuUt4YPNGVaXMkiLSsX3a?dl=0>

Living Community Challenge Handbook (can be found on the class Drive)

First Hill – Central District Living Community Public Information (can be found on the class Drive).

Yesler Terrace Website: <http://seattlehousing.net/redevelopment/yesler-terrace>

Squire Park Community Council: <http://squireparkcc.org/>

Bailey Gatzert Elementary School: <http://gatzertes.seattleschools.org/>

Inter*Im Community Development Association: <http://interimicda.org/>

Also see separate list of books, articles and websites.