

SYLLABUS ScanlDesign Master Studio Autumn 2020 • LArch 501

Heron Meadow at Vashon Nature Center

Instructor: Professor Nancy Rottle

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30 by appt: calendly.com/nrottle

Teaching Assistant: Heather Parker

ZOOM MEETING LINK: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/97459534042?pwd=YWN6ZUISMmM1ejZuWlYxwEwvSm5odz09>

Meeting ID: 974 5953 4042 Passcode: 362123

COURSE CANVAS SITE: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1399323>

COURSE G-DRIVE: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0ArlIKya93t-Uk9PVA>

MICROSOFT TEAMS: <https://rb.gy/wa0iuv>

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://courses.be.uw.edu/SDMasterStudio/>

MIRO STUDIO SPACE: https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_kkVbdL4=/



*“To help others understand nature is to make it breathe like some giant: a revolving, evolving, celestial being with ecosystems acting as organs and the living things within those places – humans included – as cells vital to its survival.” – J. Drew Lanham, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man’s Love Affair with Nature**

“Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual satisfaction.” – E. O. Wilson

The 2020 ScanlDesign Master Studio is fortunate to be working with the Vashon Nature Center and Vashon Center for the Arts on Vashon Island, to envision the Heron Meadow as a space for community gathering, art, science, habitat restoration and nature play. We will be exploring the question: *How can a small, former agricultural meadow elegantly function in multiple ways, to best provide an inspiring venue for learning, community and the arts?* Vashon Island possesses rich history, a network of preserved open spaces, and a strong, close community, and we have the great fortune of working with several knowledgeable, passionate and committed islanders.

Building on goals and desires established by the Nature Center’s staff and supporters, and acknowledging that these are traditional lands of the Puyallup tribe, we’ll explore narratives, processes and designs that bring forth the cultural and ecological stories of the meadow and provide opportunities for serious and joyful outdoor learning, convening and play. The studio will draw upon exemplary precedents from Scandinavia, as well as be inspired by local educational landscapes. With interdisciplinary students in landscape architecture, planning and architecture, our design focus may range from island-wide interpretive and access planning, to site planning of art/educational meadow experiences, to design and construction of full-scale mock-ups or installations. Our final products may be exhibited at the adjacent Vashon Center for the Arts, which owns the Heron Meadow and partners with the Nature Center.

During the term we will enjoy the benefits of an online visiting ScanlDesign Master Teacher, Louise Grassov of Schulze + Grassov from Copenhagen, and Vashon Island sculptor and furniture designer Hans Nelsen, both through the generosity of the ScanlDesign Foundation. To infuse some contemporary theory and inspired design practice from Denmark, we have organized an auxiliary Danish Design lecture series (Tuesdays at noon), and you are strongly encouraged to register for that (1 credit), in which you’ll be able to enjoy seeing examples of excellent Danish architecture, landscape architecture, and furniture, over your lunch.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of the studio is to foster and deepen your skills and sensibilities as planners and designers, specifically to: add to your experience base of understanding, documenting and responding to existing site and contextual conditions; give you practice with creative design processes; and hone your skills to produce outcomes that yield enlightening, rewarding, joyful, respectful, healthful and caring experiences for people and other species, at a variety of scales. Specific learning objectives are to:

- practice methods for understanding a site and its many contexts;
- become familiar with design practices that foster environmental learning;
- explore planning and design methods for connecting people with their environments, for personal growth, learning and place-stewardship;
- become familiar with restoration methods for PNW landscapes;
- practice the creative act of developing and transforming program ideas into integrated, responsive designed form;
- develop clear and compelling drawing, graphic and verbal communication skills (and possibly, 3-D fabrication skills);
- practice working effectively in pairs or teams;
- practice multi-scalar thinking, using both large and small scales simultaneously to each inform the other.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the culmination of the studio, students will:

- have gained an understanding of human-ecological parameters and details of a PNW site
- * be familiar with a suite of inspiring design precedents for environmental learning and experience
- have practiced developing artful opportunities for nature interpretation and experience
- have advanced planning, design and design communication skills
- have increased insight and skill for working in teams, remotely and/or in-person

A new approach to Studio during COVID-19

Because the UW and College are operating under the Phase 2 COVID-19 directives, we are unable to meet in person, except in optional, small-group settings (max. 5 people) and/or with people inside your “bubble.” Under Phase 2 you are limited to gathering with five people outside your bubble, per week or recreational activity. That means that our interactions will primarily be remote, via Zoom, or in small groups that you voluntarily arrange. We urge you to take all precautions to keep yourself and those around you healthy, through limiting live interactions, wearing a mask when in public and with others, washing hands and sanitizing equipment, etc. COVID-19 directives and guidelines may change over the course of the term, but current are [here](#) (UW) and [here](#) (State) and [here](#) (State - what’s open by Phase). Please refresh your knowledge of these recommendations and help each other abide by them!

Your overall health is important, and to that end we do encourage you to find others with whom you can establish a trustworthy “bubble,” so that you can interact socially as well as educationally. Your mental health – always and especially during the pandemic—deserves attention, and there are suggested strategies to maintain good health: getting outside for exercise and contact with nature; staying socially engaged; finding ways to exercise and move indoors; getting help from others when needed. The UW has accessible overall [health and well-being resources](#), and I want you to know that Heather and I are here for you, even if not in person. Please reach out, and take care of yourselves! (Here’s a helpful [comic](#) from NPR). You can find the College’s [COVID-19 resources](#) with links to the UW’s well-developed sites.

It may be especially challenging to design for interaction with a place you haven’t experienced yourselves, and we have arranged some **optional** opportunities for you to get an initial tour of the Heron Meadow, engage in some quick, temporary “making” for it, and explore some of the key related places on Vashon Island. We will provide reimbursement for the ferry ride and if needed, can arrange for a U-Car. If you’re comfortable riding with another person (e.g. in your bubble), it would be most economical to take fewer vehicles. Those who are able to participate will document their impressions and findings, for the benefit of those who are unable to visit in person. You are encouraged to visit the Island and site again, as well as other venues that will inform your work, and we can provide ferry reimbursement, and possibly U-cars and mileage, as funds allow.

There will also be some **optional** opportunities for students to engage in on-site construction of outdoor furniture or interpretive elements, later in the term and primarily working outside, with Vashon Island sculptor and woodworker Hans Nelsen. The opportunity might involve staying on the island for a few days, so if students are interested and committed to that prospect, we have some leads for temporary housing.

STUDIO PROCESS and EXPECTATIONS

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 to 5:20 for *group presentations, discussions, optional field trips, working time and team desk critiques*. Occasionally we’ll go beyond these times for special events and work times. Nancy will be available for meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Fridays. Our class **Schedule** is located in the Google Drive [here](#) (in “Syllabus and Schedule”). It will undoubtedly change over the course of the term, so please keep your eye on it. In that same folder I will post an agenda for the day, with opportunities to sign up for desk critiques, etc. When our Master Teacher Louise Grassov is scheduled to be with us, we will try to find morning times in your schedule for Zoom sessions with her, to align with her + 9 hrs schedule in Denmark. Times for working with Hans Nelsen on Vashon will be by arrangement, likely Wed. – Sun.

This term you will primarily work in small teams on analysis and site narratives; in pairs or individually on precedent studies; and in pairs or individually on conceptual, schematic and detail design level endeavors. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled M/W/F class times, and to participate as a full member in your teamwork. Formal and informal peer review will be even more critical with

our remote locations, and you are all asked to contribute generously to build a studio culture of collegiality, peer critique and assistance, from which everyone will benefit.

We also hope to collaboratively generate a supportive social culture, through setting aside some times for interaction and just general life-sharing. To that end, we would like to set up times during the afternoon where students take on the responsibility of bringing some prompts to class, to stimulate fun and meaningful sharing. These might be at the beginning of class, and/or during a common “Fika” time. Fika is a Swedish informal time over coffee and snacks (probably something with cardamom!), and in our live studios we’ve taken turns bringing snacks for this social break. For our on-line format, we will set aside a time each day – tentatively 4:00 pm – for everyone to join in conversation, bringing your own tea/coffee/snack. (Apparently we can also self-select into breakout rooms with the new 5.3 Zoom version.)

Keeping a Journal / Sketchbook

You are highly encouraged to cultivate the habit of keep a journal, for your own personal insights and to document your research and design explorations. Consider including your design process, notes from readings, class presentations, solutions seen, heard, and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product. Your journal may also serve as a sketchbook of visual notes, sketches and diagrams – or you may wish to keep a separate sketchbook that invites you to keep your drawing hand and sketching practice active.

DANISH DESIGN LECTURE COURSE LARCH 498C

As noted above, in collaboration with Peter Cohan and Kimo Griggs in Architecture, we have arranged for a series of accomplished Danish designers to give weekly lectures on Danish design, including landscape, architecture, urban design and furniture, to introduce you to some of the thinking and projects that you would have otherwise experienced on our missed Denmark study tours. Please register for the course, LArch 498C, and enjoy the lectures over your Tuesday lunch! The lectures will be recorded as well.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

Over the term we'll consult a variety of resources related to Vashon Island and design for environmental education. Our Resource list is a G-doc in the Drive [here](#). Some of them you will find as e-resources; for others we have ordered hard copies of some books that we'll need to find ways to make available. You are encouraged to share new resources with each other as you discover them – please add them to the list!

We've also created a list of studio-related books [here](#) to read for your enjoyment and enlightenment; likewise please do add your favorites.

CANVAS

Our official LArch 501 Canvas site is [here](#). The Canvas site will primarily serve as a wayfinding tool where you can find links to important documents and platforms, such as our class Zoom meeting room, the syllabus, our current schedule, class assignments, and important folders and documents on the Google Drive. During this course, you will not submit your assignments on Canvas; instead, your completed assignments should be uploaded to the Google Drive, as described below.

GOOGLE DRIVE

The share space for our course is on Google Drive. The shared course drive is [2020 Scan|Design LArch 501](#). 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 Heather with specific questions. Here's a good place to start: <https://support.google.com/drive/?hl=en#topic=14940>.

The 2020 LArch 501 drive 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 design 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: **everything you do to files and folders in the shared Google Drive affects the rest of the class** (editing and removing files, etc.).

Please share your photos in the [Photo folder](#) in the Drive so that everyone can benefit from your experience on the island and of the Meadow. Label the photos so that others can know what they are showing. (for other “Go Outside” experiences we'll share via MS Teams).

COMMUNICATION

We will primarily use e-mail for communicating important class announcements, but will also endeavor to duplicate these messages on our studio's [Microsoft Team](#). We will use MS Teams as a forum for informal discussion, peer-to-peer Q+A, and feedback. We have set up several class channels on Teams to facilitate conversations; however, please also feel free to create private channels for collaborative and group projects. Though we encourage you to engage and pose questions on MS Teams, please reach out to Nancy or Heather by email with private or time sensitive questions or concerns.

COURSE WEBSITE

A description of our course project this term will be on the [Scan|Design Master Studio website](#), and our final products will be posted there. The website is open to the public so is a place where our colleagues on Vashon Island and future students and the public can easily access it. You can also find past work from the studio there, including graphics from final projects that may be useful to you.

FINAL EXHIBIT

We are planning to exhibit our final work at the Vashon Center for the Arts. If COVID-19 allows, we may have a live showing of your printed work, at a special opening. Or, we may have a virtual event to which the public is invited. Stay tuned!

STUDIO EVALUATION (C/NC)

Evaluation will be both directly from guest reviewers and faculty throughout the quarter, with written comments provided at the end of the term. Evaluations will intend to help increase your self-awareness in relation to your design process, level of engagement, growth, contributions as a studio member, and design communication and outcomes.

Required at the end of term:

- **Digital upload of your project files and book pages, including scans of your process work, to the Course G-Drive**
- **If we elect to create an exhibit of our work: models/ photos of models/exhibits, videos, etc. displayed and also uploaded to Course Drive**
- **PDFs of your posters that can be printed in reduced format**
- **Final versions of book pages to be published (precedents, analysis, etc.)**

Select examples of your work may be saved in the Landscape Architecture archives for publication and for future Departmental accreditation.

Access + Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to us. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Religious Accommodation

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).



The Vashon Nature Center creates transformative nature experiences through community science, research, and education.