

URBANbuild 12

DSGN 4200 / 6 credits + CPS credits

Spring 2016 / 2017

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www.URBANbuild.tulane.edu



UB Prototype 12 – ‘Development, Realization and Documentation’

As a continuation of efforts initiated by the Fall URBANbuild studio, the Spring studio will further develop and fabricate a dwelling prototype to be sited in the Central City Neighborhood of New Orleans. *Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans* (NHS) has once again committed to providing a site for our research - located at 1924 Toledano Street.

Debate continues with regard to what should be done with the many historically marginalized areas of largely low-income under privileged communities of this city. During the fall semester, several housing strategies were developed in response to and in support of the physical and cultural priorities of the common residential site. However, one has been selected for construction, and groundbreaking will occur early January. Students considering this studio are urged to visit the current URBANbuild studio and acquaint themselves with the scheme's developments.

The spring studio group will work at the scale of dwelling and fabrication - focusing on material issues and the development of fabrication details through the realization of a built project. Eleven substantial projects have already been designed and constructed by the School's URBANbuild program, and students will continue to build upon the lessons offered by those accomplishments. This term's constructed prototype may serve as a 'model home' to be replicated on several sites by NHS in collaboration with a residential developer.

*NOTE: students are also expected to enroll in URBANbuild APFC-4320 and ATCS-6320 and will receive an additional 6 credits for that enrollment.

Program

A two bedroom dwelling prototype has been developed for construction. However, while the dwelling scheme is established, many material options are to be considered and fabrication details will be 'mocked-up' and tested. This studio research will rely upon the most affordable local construction system, wood framing, so that savings may be applied to special components of the home such as special screening and shutter systems, landscape components, and interior finishes.

Each student will record and document revisions and developments of the scheme through the careful maintenance of a record set of documents. Beginning with the documents submitted to the city for permitting, revisions will be continually catalogued and eventually prepared for presentation upon the conclusion of construction.

Design and fabrication will take place within a fast 16-week timeframe. Students will be asked to communicate with tradespeople, acquire materials, develop building skills, and respectfully interact with community members. Students will be taught to safely use power tools along with effective construction techniques and will work Monday through Saturday. Periodically, due to weather delays and scheduling conflicts, full weekends of work will be required; however, every effort is made to avoid that situation. Students should expect to work during Spring Break if the construction schedule is not maintained. For additional program information, visit WWW.URBANbuild.tulane.edu.

Objectives

This platform studio will require each student to demonstrate a range of abilities, and an awareness of important issues and knowledge. This semester's topic of research will allow the studio participants to address and solve problems of coordination and construction at varying scales.

Quality of craft and care in execution will be emphasized throughout the course. In addition, Students will not only learn how to construct a home. They will also develop skills of diplomacy through working closely and intensely with colleagues and peers. Students will be forced to respectfully hold each other accountable through the definition and pursuit of team goals.

Studio Culture

Please read the "Studio Culture Policy" on the TSA website: <http://architecture.tulane.edu/current-students/student-information>

Course Structure

The scheduling and execution of multiple phases of construction will be pursued throughout the semester and critical benchmarks will be established in effort to maintain that schedule. The schedule will require periodic updating and revision; however, the completion date of early May will be maintained.

Construction requirements will build throughout the semester so that each stage of development will be an extension, and sometimes a revision of previous achievements. Only in this way can the desired levels of detail and resolution be achieved by the end of the course. Students will be responsible for all previous sets of requirements at each subsequent stage.

Reviews

Structured participation will be required in all major design reviews. You will be called upon to critique the work of your peers as well as to present your own designs. You will also be expected to recall with insight all of the critical comments made during each review. This interaction will form a part of the semester's grade.

Presentation

At this point in the curriculum it is vital that you be able to communicate your proposals and ideas thoroughly and persuasively. The conventions of architectural drawing and modeling will be reviewed, required, and evaluated during the semester. Presentations must be complete at each review and a final portfolio entry representing the semester's work will be required.

Meeting Time

8:00 am Monday through Saturday. The length of workdays will vary and end sometime between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. Work on selected Sundays may sometimes be required. Weekly goals will be established, but flexibility will need to be maintained due to delays caused by weather, late material deliveries, or similar events.

The physical work will be demanding at times, but it is critical that students work carefully. It is expected that all work be conducted with safety as a priority. When faced with the option of getting something done fast rather than safely, it is required that students choose to take their time and ask for assistance or guidance.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to work regularly and productively in fulfillment of the project schedule. All work will be the product of team efforts, but individual efforts will be recognized through qualities of leadership, collaboration and the initiation of 'problem solving' efforts.

The beginning of the work day, the scheduling of lunch breaks and the conclusion of each work day are to be respected by every 'full time' course participant. Work days may sometimes extend beyond the scheduled hours. Absence for medical reasons or family emergencies should be requested as soon after the event as possible and in advance of project deadlines, and should be supported by proper documentation. It is occasionally necessary to change deadlines and specific requirements. Such changes will be made with as much notice as possible, but may occasionally be made at short notice to ensure the productive continuity of the program. Students should stay in touch with each other to be aware of any such changes.

safety

In effort to maintain a safe work setting, the construction site is to always be kept as clear as possible. Tools are to be cared for and maintained with the highest level of quality possible; the 'onsite' storage container is to be kept as clear and organized as possible. Instructors will direct the maintenance of site and equipment.

Proper protective footwear is to be worn at all times on site, eye protection is to be worn when operating dangerous equipment or performing dangerous tasks. Students are to wear protective hard hats at all times on site. Students should always be aware of their surroundings and the activities of others. Do not hesitate to offer assistance or ask for assistance when needed!

Unless a supervised event is coordinated by course instructors, no alcoholic beverages are allowed on site. Standard university policies of acceptable behavior are to be respected. Unsafe or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated and may lead to immediate course expulsion.

Attendance

Students are expected to work in studio during designated studio hours. Unexcused absences from regular working days in studio will adversely affect the student's final grade, regardless of other course requirements completed and grades earned. An unexcused absence from a scheduled pin-up or review is especially serious and will have an appropriately adverse effect on the final grade. Please email instructor prior to class if you know that you will be late to or absent from class. ***A meeting with the Associate Dean of Students will be required after TWO unexcused absences.***

Incomplete and Late Work

In accordance with School policy, work that is not adequately represented will not be discussed in reviews. Late work will only be accepted with the permission of the Instructor. Late work submitted after the final day of classes is not acceptable without written permission from the Dean. Any late work accepted will be penalized 10% for the first day of lateness, and 5% per day thereafter. (The first day of lateness begins immediately after the deadline, and weekends are counted). Extensions for medical reasons or family emergencies should be requested as soon after the event as possible and in advance of the deadline, and must be supported by adequate documentation.

Accommodation

Students with documented disabilities who require accommodations should follow the procedures of Tulane's Office of Disability Services and make an appointment to speak to the Instructor during their office hours.

Record Documents

Each student shall maintain a set of record documents throughout the semester. Record documents are often maintained throughout the course of any construction project so that changes in detail or design strategy are documented for future reference.

This semester's construction project will be documented in effort to present all levels of project revision and development at both the 'larger scale' of design development and the 'smaller scale' of detail and material development.

These efforts are to be coordinated with the photographic documentation required by the associated coursework of APFC 4310 and ATCS 6320. A presentation of documents will be organized upon the completion of construction.

Evaluation Criteria

This studio will require each student to demonstrate a range of abilities, and understandings, as well as an awareness of important issues. Assignments will be evaluated on the student's success in fulfilling the general objectives of the Studio, the specific objectives of the assignment, and mandatory requirements. Students should note that meeting the letter of the assignment's objectives adequately will not necessarily result in more than a passing grade. While functional, technical and anthropometrical aspects of design projects are subject to empirical assessment, qualitative assessment of design work is subject to the judgment of the Instructor, according to professional and disciplinary standards. A creative and insightful response to the assignment documented and presented with high quality, will receive a correspondingly higher grade. Perceptual acuity, conceptual refinement, intellectual rigor, and critical judgment will be expected in each student's work; aesthetic and theoretical sophistication are expected to increase over time. Throughout the Studio, there will be an emphasis on consistently advancing the quality and clarity of drawings and models as both tools of exploration and of presentation.

A construction schedule will be maintained throughout the course of construction. The presentation date of record documents and photographic documentation is to be determined at a later date.

Documentation and Submission of Work

All students are required to submit a digital record of their work according to specifications that will be outlined during the course of the semester. Grades will not be issued until documentation is received. Presenting your work on your desk for the Studio Walkthrough at the end of each semester is considered part of your studio coursework.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services through this link:

<https://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/>

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the Tulane Code of Academic Conduct. In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The submission of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board. First offences typically fail the assignment in question or fail the course in addition to losing eligibility for study-abroad options and graduation awards. Students are expelled from the university for second offences. Students are strongly urged to refer to and abide by this code. You may obtain a copy at <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>.