

## URBANbuild 13

DSGN 4100 / 6 credits

Fall 2017 / 2018 - Instructor: Byron Mouton



### URBANbuild 13 – gazing

As a continuation of research conducted by the School of Architecture's **URBANbuild** program, this studio will continue to focus upon the topic of dwelling amidst the urban fabric of New Orleans' Central City Neighborhood. Once again, developments will materialize in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans (NHS).

As designers invested in maintaining our city's vital urban fabric, we cannot achieve progress without a commitment to the preservation of the city's physical and cultural contexts. Many of the vicinity's common dwelling types respond to the region's climate responsibly and possess positive, time-proven qualities of scale, light, and texture. All of those qualities are worth preserving. However, preservation and replication need not be mutually dependent. As always, the **URBANbuild** studio's research will aim to recognize the proven qualities of the context in pursuit of progress.

The **URBANbuild** (UB) program has produced a significant body of work in partnership with NHS, and a mutual trust has evolved between the two groups. NHS's Board of Advisors continues to "define" its mission, which has been greatly influenced by the investigations and experiences developed in conjunction with the UB program.

For more than a decade, NHS required the development of 3 bedroom / 2 bath housing strategies in response to market demand and lending practices. However, last year, the UB team was allowed to stray from that program and develop a smaller single level "infill" prototype. The reduced scale of the program allowed the design team to achieve material details with higher resolution and quality. In addition, the limitation of the "one story" program enabled students to explore variation in vertical spatial depth, qualities of light and access to the sky. This studio will be organized as a pointed continuation of that research.

### PROGRAM

Building upon the UB research initiated last year, this dwelling unit's program is once again reduced - allowing for a more crafted execution of spatial articulation and material assemblies. The project must provide the necessities of a home - kitchen, living, dining spaces, two bedrooms and two bathrooms. However, in addition to those basic requirements, the design team is responsible for the creation and provision of quality spaces. This studio's design team is asked to prioritize qualities of scale, adjacency, proportion and porosity – prioritizing expansive yet private relationships to the exterior. Vertical spatial expression will be the focus of this studio.

Studio members, working at the scale of the single family dwelling, will develop options for an identified site. As qualities of the individual proposals are compared, student teams will be assembled in pursuit of shared interests, and several proposals will be developed. By midterm, one direction will be selected for advancement, permitting and construction. In compliance with the city's Office of Safety and Permits, construction documents will be produced. In addition, material options and mockups will be considered, various site visits will be organized, and students will participate in the final development of a shared portfolio documenting studio activities. At the outset, students will work independently, but eventually, students will work collectively in pursuit of shared goals.

Construction will occur throughout the spring semester. While spring involvement cannot be guaranteed, students interested in the Fall term's studio may also express their goals to be involved in the spring **URBANbuild** construction courses.

Documentation of the **URBANbuild** program's history and the accomplishments of its students may be accessed via [www.URBANbuild.tulane.edu](http://www.URBANbuild.tulane.edu). Additional questions may be directed to Professor Byron Mouton via [bmouton@bildit.com](mailto:bmouton@bildit.com).

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## **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 require students to address and solve problems of coordination and construction at varying scales. At the same time, the studio will emphasize considerations that transcend practicality, such as spatial definition and hierarchy, formal composition, massing, proportion, and other aesthetic and psychological issues.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

The development and cataloguing of various options will be pursued throughout the semester and supporting exercises will be completed in effort to maintain coherence amongst the various levels and options of those developments. The presentation requirements will build throughout the semester so that each stage of development will be an extension, as well as a revision of previous proposals. Only in this way can the required levels of detail and resolution be achieved by the end of the course. You will be responsible for all previous sets of requirements at each subsequent stage.

## **STUDIO CULTURE**

Please review the "Studio Culture Policy" on the TSA website:

[http://architecture.tulane.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/2015/studio\\_culture\\_policy\\_and\\_process\\_010515.pdf](http://architecture.tulane.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/2015/studio_culture_policy_and_process_010515.pdf)

Students are expected to work regularly and productively in fulfillment of the assignments, with new material and evident progress for each discussion of their work. Except when team projects are assigned, all work should be the product of the individual student. Because Studio meetings may be scheduled at short notice, students are to work in the Studio space during scheduled Studio hours especially at the beginning and end of the Studio session. Students working in the Computer Lab should arrange with another student to notify them when Studio meetings occur. Students should discuss the progress of their work with the Instructor as regularly as the Studio calendar and enrollment allow, and at least once per week. Studio sessions may sometimes extend beyond the scheduled hours; students due for a desk crit should advise the Instructor in advance on those occasions when they are unable to stay beyond 5PM. Students are expected to exploit the opportunities presented by the Studio to integrate knowledge and skills gained in their other courses. In addition, students are expected to take notes, read what is assigned, and complete assignments on time. Extensions for medical reasons or family emergencies should be requested as soon after the event as possible and in advance of the deadline, 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 Studio. Students should stay in touch with each other to be aware of any such changes.

## **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 TIMES**

1:00pm - 5:00 Monday / Wednesday / Friday

In addition: field trips and excursions may be periodically scheduled outside of the normal class meeting times.

### ATTENDANCE

Studio meets M,W,F 1pm-5pm in Richardson Memorial Hall. Students are expected to work in studio during these four 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.

### ACCOMODATION

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.

### SKETCHBOOK

Each student shall maintain a sketchbook throughout the semester. The size and type of sketchbook are open to your preference, although we suggest that an easily portable size — 5"x 8" minimum, for example — is one that you are more likely to carry with you at all times. Sketch media are also up to you. The 21<sup>st</sup> century sketch book will be an organized collection of both handmade and 'printed' digitally produced developments.

### 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>.

**TSA STUDENT INFORMATION**

Please refer to the "Student Information" section of the TSA website for links to detailed information to academic policies and services: <http://architecture.tulane.edu/current-students/student-information>

**TULANE ONE WAVE**

One Wave is a program at Tulane that aims to encourage a culture of safety and a community of engaged and proactive bystanders that do not tolerate any form of violence: <http://tulane.edu/health/onewave/index.cfm>

Tulane University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As One Wave, Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence, know that you are not alone. Learn more at [onewave.tulane.edu](http://onewave.tulane.edu).

Tulane One Wave Campus Resources:

Strictly Confidential	Mostly Confidential
<i>Except in extreme circumstances, involving imminent danger to one's self or others, nothing will be shared without your explicit permission.</i>	<i>Conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information is shared with key staff members so the University can offer resources and accommodations and take action if necessary for safety reasons.</i>
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)   <a href="tel:5043142277">(504) 314-2277</a>	Coordinator of Violence Prevention   <a href="tel:5043142161">(504) 314-2161</a>
Student Health Center   <a href="tel:5048655255">(504) 865-5255</a>	Tulane University Police (TUPD)   <a href="tel:5048655911">(504) 865-5911</a>
SAPHE Hotline   <a href="tel:5046549543">(504) 654-9543</a>	Office of Institutional Equity   <a href="tel:5048628083">(504) 862-8083</a>