

Urban Design Studio:

A Vision for the Alexander Street - University Place Corridor Princeton, New Jersey

970:511:01 Spring 2011

9:50-12:30 Mondays Room 474 and at various locations in Princeton, NJ

Adjunct Professors: James Constantine and Gonzalo Echeverria

Contact information for the instructor to be provided first day of class.

Overview

This studio will focus on a mile-long corridor from regional, community and site-specific scales. Issues to be explored include expanding the existing Dinky rail shuttle as a streetcar, integrating Princeton University's proposed Arts Neighborhood and creating designs for potential future transit stops, infill and redevelopment. Studio members will gain hands-on experience facilitating stakeholder meetings and hosting a public charrette-style workshop.

The scope of the studio project has been divided into three sections: *Discovery*, *Concepts* and *Outreach*. These sections are not sequential as the *Discovery* and *Outreach* will drive the early phases of the project, but continue to be cycled back into the *Concepts*. The urban design framework and concept plans will form the basis for a public design charrette on Saturday April 30. A detailed outline for the work products will be provided at the first class.

The client for this project is Princeton Future, a non-profit volunteer group that promotes community support for integrated planning solutions in Princeton.

<http://www.princetonfuture.org/>

Course Structure

The studio is structured to mirror a 90-day "real world" professional study. Tasks will involve individual and small group research on specific topics relevant to the project. Public and stakeholder outreach will be conducted with actual groups and persons. Students are expected to become very familiar with the study area and specifically the designated areas for detailed design. Design principles and techniques relevant to the studio will be taught by readings, lectures and exercises to assist students with the process of analysis, design and graphic presentation. Research and preliminary design concepts will be reviewed by the client and, possibly, other stakeholders.

Grading

The final grade will be based on the following:

- **Individual** readings, assignments, research and design as measured by individual work product, quizzes, design concepts and graphics, and demonstrated understanding of the content and/or principles – **50% of final grade.**
- **Small team** assignments and **full class** final work product as measured by the team/class work product – **50% of final grade.**
- Extra credit may be given based on individual contribution beyond that required by the readings, assignments and work products.

Assignments, quizzes and work products will be graded up to 100 points based on:

- Demonstrated understanding of urban design principles
- Selection and/or creation and captioning of images to illustrate principles or findings
- Design concepts including graphic quality and methods of presentation

All assignments, quizzes and work products are due as posted. Late assignments, quizzes and work products will not be accepted without prior authorization by the instructor.

Absentee Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes and field visits unless excused with prior authorization by the instructor. If a student is excused from a class or field visit with prior authorization, it shall be solely the responsibility of the student to work make up the lost work as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

This class will adhere to the Rutgers University policy on academic integrity which can be found at: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Reading Materials

There are no books assigned for the course. Reading materials will be assigned individually and to the entire class. Readings for the first class are listed in the schedule below. Prior to the first class it is recommended that students review a series of news articles found at the following:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=109785459051849&v=info> (The Save the Princeton Dinky Facebook site has links to a series of articles that can provide a good background to what has happened in the past 45 days. You do not need to review anything older than December 7, 2010. You are not being asked to review commentary or discussions at this site.)

You may also begin the readings assigned for the first class – the Princeton Community Master Plan and the Princeton University Campus Plan.

Schedule:

1/24/11 1 - Introduction and Overview

Introductions: Student backgrounds and skill sets. Instructor and client introductions.

Housekeeping: Readings, assignments, quizzes, work products, presentations, public interaction, grading absentee policy, academic integrity, etc.

Lecture: Expanding and Extending The Dinky with The Arts and Transit Neighborhood

Review: Course structure, schedule, work products. Assign teams to research stakeholder sessions topics – Economic Development and the Arts, Mobility and Social Equity, and Historic Preservation and Environment.

White board: Who's Who – Connecting the Dots

Reading: Princeton Community Master Plan

<http://www.princetonol.com/gov/regplan/index.html>

and Princeton University Campus Plan (Focus on overview sections, Arts and Transit Neighborhood, Transportation and Beyond 2016 – West Neighborhoods. Skip sections on Ten Year Projects and campus neighborhoods other than Arts and Transit - Core Campus, Natural Sciences, Ivy Lane and Western Way, and Prospect Avenue and William Street).

<http://www.princeton.edu/campusplan/>

Assignment: Prepare a list of ten key findings and/or questions about each of the readings - the Princeton Community Master Plan and Princeton University Campus Plan. Your list of ten key findings and/or questions will form the basis for an in-field discussion on Monday January 31. *Due by providing instructors with a hard copy upon arrival in Princeton on January 31 and via Sakai submission by 1:00 PM on January 31.*

1/31/11 2 – Visit Princeton & Attend Princeton Regional Planning Board Meeting for Presentation of Arts and Transit Neighborhood by Princeton University

Please wear comfortable footwear and dress in warm clothing. Bring cameras and base maps to make notes on existing conditions.

Time tbd: Overview tour of Princeton and walk and talk tour of study area.

Time tbd: Meet with Marvin Reed, Chairman of the Master Plan Subcommittee to get an overview and ask questions about the Princeton Community Master Plan.

5:45 PM: Dinner at Conte's Pizza – a Princeton institution.

7:00 PM: Attend Regional Planning Board meeting (expect a late finish – research transit schedules accordingly).

Assignments: Research and prepare materials for stakeholder sessions (small teams). Design graphic and presentation format for assignments and work products (full class).

2/7/11 3 – Transportation Issues & Transit Typologies / Prep Stakeholders Sessions

Lecture: Alexander Street Corridor, Route One Corridor and Transit Typologies – Jon Carnegie, Executive Director, Voorhees Institute

Review: Materials for stakeholder sessions.

Discussion: Stakeholder listening skills and “idea floating”.

2/14/11 4 - Stakeholder Session 1 – Economic Development and the Arts

9:30-11:30 – Stakeholder session in 2nd floor meeting room at Princeton Public Library

2/21/11 5 - Stakeholder Session 1 – Mobility and Social Equity

9:30-11:30 – Stakeholder session in 2nd floor meeting room at Princeton Public Library

2/28/11 6 - Stakeholder Session 1 – Historic Preservation and Environment

9:30-11:30 – Stakeholder session in 2nd floor meeting room at Princeton Public Library

3/7/11 7 - Principles and Techniques Session 1

Readings, lecture and in-class work session on analysis and preliminary design concepts.

Assignment: Prepare on-line public participation survey.

3/14/11 Spring Break – No Class

3/21/11 8 - Principles and Techniques Session 2

Readings, lecture and in-class work session on analysis and preliminary design concepts.

3/28/11 9 - Principles and Techniques Session 3

Readings, lecture and in-class work session on analysis and preliminary design concepts.

Date/time tbd Saturday – Bike Ride in Princeton

Come as a group with bicycles to cover a lot of ground. Tour the study area, ride the D & R Canal towpath, explore the campus, etc.

4/4/11 10 – Design Work/Review Session 1

Readings and in-class work/critique to refine and detail design concepts.

4/11/11 11 – Design Work/Review Session 2

Readings and in-class work/critique to refine and detail design concepts.

4/18/11 12 – Design Work/Review Session 3

Readings and in-class work/critique to refine and detail design concepts.

4/25/11 13 – Charrette Preparation

Review slide show presentation materials, exhibits, base maps and briefing package for charrette.

Email briefing package to designer attending charrette.

4/30/11 14 – Public Design Charrette

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM - Community Room and Hinds Plaza at Princeton Public Library.

Public presentation on findings, analysis and urban design framework by studio team members.

Architects, landscape architects and urban designers participate in helping sketch out the character for specific sites.

Solicit public comments and feedback.

Week of 5/2/11 15 – Pin-up Review of Final Deliverables

Location and time tdb: Pin-up review of draft final document, hand-outs, plan exhibits, slide show and video clips.

5/2/11 Final Deliverables Due