AUGMENTING URBAN ECOLOGIES

INTRODUCTION
This course is the third studio in the Master of Architecture Program sequence and examines scalar, systemic, performative, and material aspects of urban ecologies. The studio methodology includes a comprehensive study of an urban context, the definition of the context's constituent aspects, and the reflection on these aspects through the design of a medium sized multi-purpose urban facility (2,000 – 5,000 m²) and related public space. The program for the medium sized facility will emerge from the analysis of the context and the resultant interpretation/addressal of key programmatic needs of the site.

The impact that human constructions and infrastructures have had, and continue to have, on global ecosystems (and vice versa) requires a comprehensive understanding of the formal, material and technical complexity of built environments in order to reduce the consumption of vital resources and to respond to various environmental, social, cultural, and technical challenges. The following topics will be introduced conceptually during the semester: urban morphology at multiple scales, urban systems, structural systems, medium sized building typologies, public space design and environmental stewardship.

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course:

Primary Level: A1: Design Theories, Precedents, and Methods; A2: Design Skills; A3: Design Tools; A5: Site Context and Design; A6: Urban Design

Secondary Level: A4: Program Analysis; B5: Ecological Systems; C3: Structural Systems

Note: students entering M1 from other institutions are required to take the Workshop Skills course.
OBJECTIVES

1. To develop design skills through the creation of a medium-sized project based on the understanding and critical engagement of an urban condition.
2. To develop skills and awareness of urban contexts through research, analysis, and interpretation, leading to an appropriate architectural program and form.
3. To develop introductory knowledge of urban morphologies, urban precedents, architectural typologies, programming, and structural concepts.
4. To develop site design, concept design, and design development skills.
5. To understand the concept that buildings themselves are ecological systems that participate in larger ecologies, and to understand the role that architecture plays in this urban interface.

TEACHING APPROACH

In this studio there will be five studio sections, each necessarily covering the same fundamental material and deliverables, based on the Architecture Program’s established pedagogy. Within this overall pedagogical and studio delivery framework, each instructor can particularize the studio experience strategically. Each instructor will provide detailed project descriptions throughout the semester, based on the studio framework. Guidance and feedback will be provided during regular desk crits, informal lectures, and formal reviews. The work will be done individually, with some research work done in small groups.

PROGRAM

Students will design a medium-sized, multi-purpose urban facility of approximately 2,000 – 5,000 m² with an associated public space. The relative mix, size and delineation of program will be determined through the site analysis and interpretation phase of the project; the program understood as a critical catalyst for the site.

SITE

The studio site is a three-block territory running north-south through Inglewood from the Calgary Zoo in the north and southward to Blackfoot Trail. This area is a veritable laboratory of urban issues as it includes dense commercial fabric, brown field residual space, recreational landscape, street wall residential and mixed-use fabric, big box commercial, and large infrastructural constructs. Each studio section will analyze and interpret a portion of this site and share the study with the other studio sections, creating a graphic compendium of urban research from which students will choose their sites for intervention. All five studio sections will coordinate graphic conventions such that the compendium is read and understood as a single, harmonious document.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, MEANS OF EVALUATION AND SCHEDULE

Students are expected to complete all assignments, be present in studio on Tuesdays and Fridays (and on other studio days as required) and attend all lectures and reviews. Students will also be expected to read any assigned readings. Detailed project descriptions will be provided throughout the term by studio instructors. The following is the overall studio schedule and the general breakdown of assignments:

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<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Research, Site Analysis/Interpretation, Programming, Design Conceptualization</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, September 6 – Friday, October 11 (5 weeks)</td>
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<td>REVIEW: Friday October 11</td>
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<td>Block Week</td>
<td>October 14-18</td>
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<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>Design Development, Materials, Assemblies, Environmental Systems</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 22 – Friday, November 8 (3 weeks)</td>
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<td>REVIEW: Friday November 8</td>
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<td>Mid Term Break</td>
<td>November 11-15</td>
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<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Structures Charrette</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 19 – Tuesday, November 26 (1 week)</td>
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<td>REVIEW: Tuesday November 26</td>
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Phase 4
Final Design and Presentation
Tuesday, November 26 – Tuesday, December 10 (2 weeks)
Final Review: Date to be determined
30%

Phase 5
Final Portfolio, Date to be determined
Depends on the final review date
10%

GRADING SCALE

The following equivalencies (the University of Calgary has no official percentage scale system) will be used in calculating grades: A+ (95.0-100.0); A (90.0-94.99); A- (85-89.99); B+ (80.0-84.99); B (75.0-79.99); B- (70.0-74.99); C+ (65.0-69.99); C (60.0-64.99); C- (55.0-59.99); D+ (50.0-55.99); D (45.0-49.99); F (0-44.99).

At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

READINGS

Refer to detailed project handouts with readings specific to each studio section provided separately.

SPECIAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation.

The University has approved supplemental fee for this course of $150.00.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student’s own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when: (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work, (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author, (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or, (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html
COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students’ assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines