Architectural Civic Design Report Portfolio

This collection of Architecture Civic Design coursework responded to the evolving needs of the various Sustainable City Year Program's partners through innovative design solutions. From enhancing downtown vitality and reimagining urban spaces to promoting sustainable construction practices and adaptive reuse, these projects reflect a commitment to addressing real-world issues through architectural and urban design. The following project portfolio showcases a range of student-driven initiatives who engaged with community partners to create impactful and forward-thinking design proposals.

What is the Sustainable City Year Program?

The Sustainable City Year Program is an innovative university-community partnership program founded by the Sustainable Cities Institute at the University of Oregon in 2009-10. In this unique model, existing courses, faculty, and students from across campus are purposefully directed toward a single Oregon community over an academic year to address vexing issues identified by the partner. SCYP and the students, faculty, and communities it engages with are an example of Oregon innovation, leadership, and how leveraging resources can contribute to meaningful, additional, and society-wide value. SCYP creates a conduit for translating knowledge into practice, and provides significant workforce development opportunities for students, adding 'hard' and 'soft' skills and hands-on experience to all levels of students' education.

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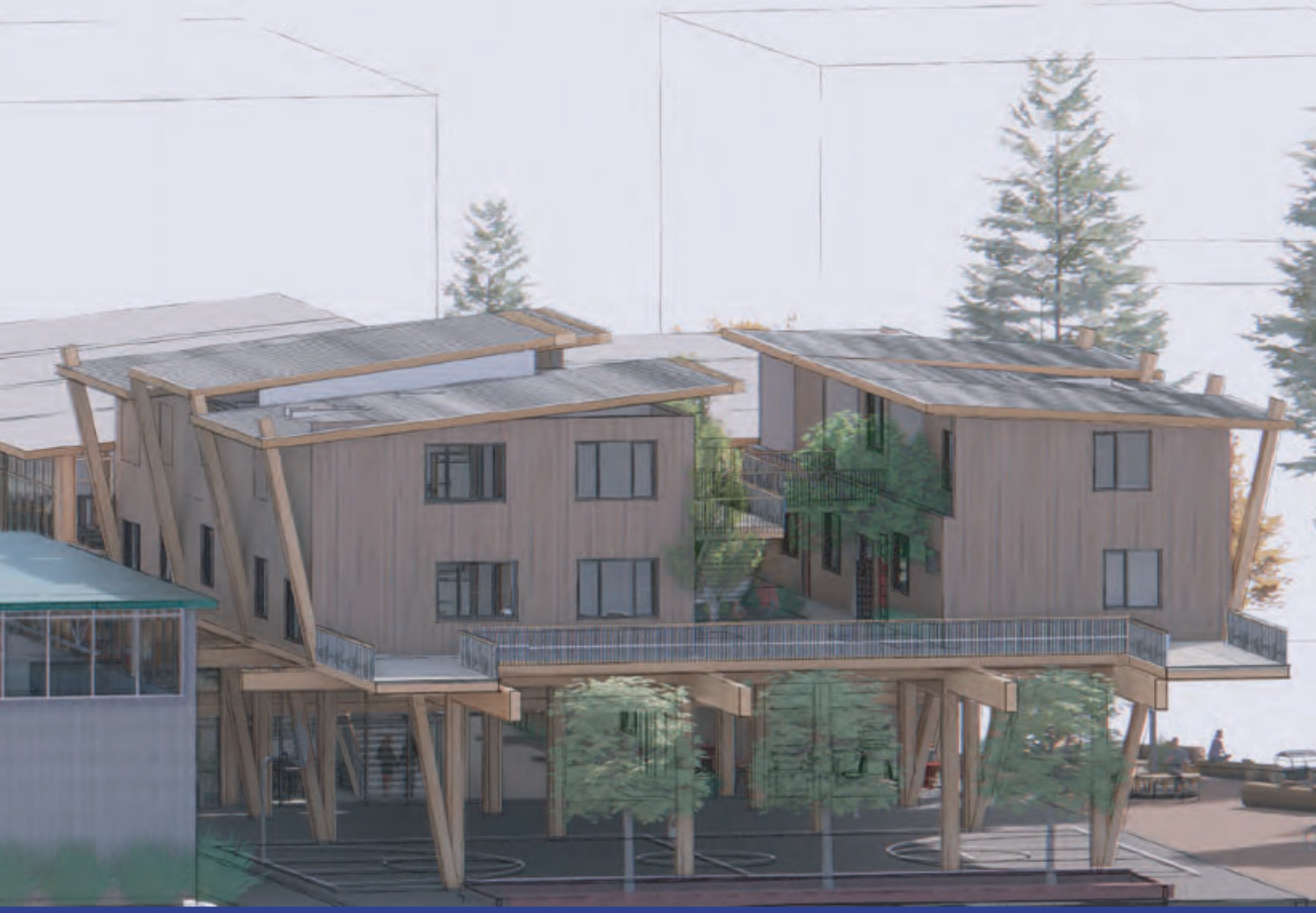

WINTER 2023

Image Credit: Erin Ulcickas

Reimagining Housing Options

Partner: City of Sisters
Instructor: Ceara O'Leary

Project Description: Students proposed adaptive reuse ideas and designs for the existing Sisters Elementary School site. Student housing proposals fell into four main categories:

1. Housing on top of the school
2. Housing on the west side of the site
3. Housing clusters
4. Housing as larger volumes.

Students focused on creating spaces for future residents that would serve a range of family sizes and types. Students also proposed outdoor spaces designed to serve the community in a variety of ways, mostly through recreational activities such as sports and site layouts to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Recommendations: Categories of student designs included:

- West Side: Students placed and designed housing on the west side of the site, and created a border of housing that enclosed a true "center of the community."
- Clusters: Students designed groupings of freestanding housing mainly on the southeast area of the site.
- Build on top of school: Students proposed building on top of the existing elementary school to take advantage of the adaptive reuse potential of this building.

Reimagining Housing Options for the Sisters Elementary School Site Report

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FALL 2022-SPRING 2023

Image Credit: Andrew Tesmacher

Co-Living for the Changing Family: Thriving through Sharing in Expandable Buildings

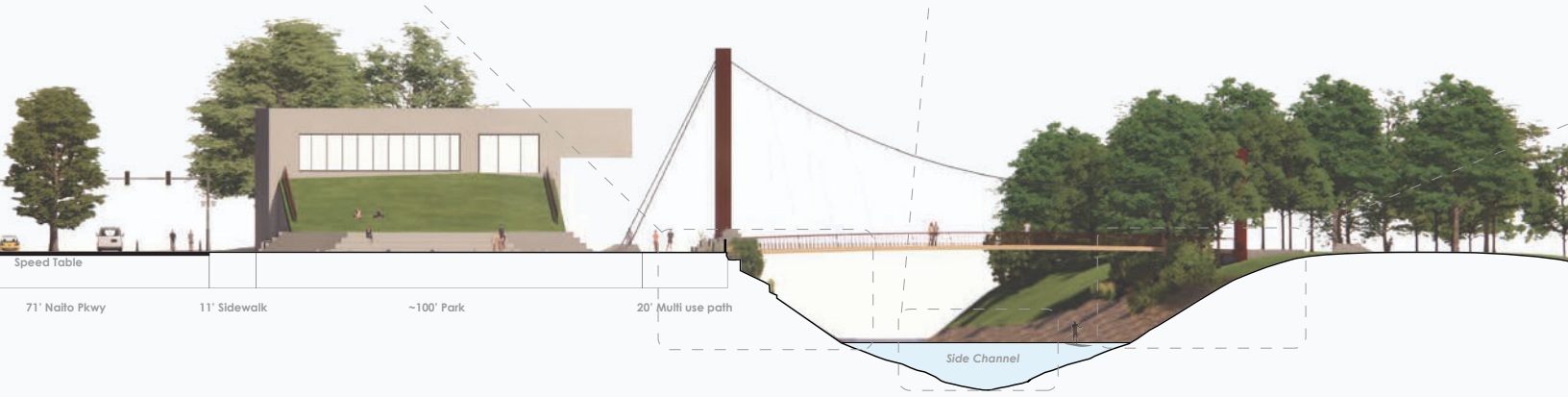
Partner: City of Sisters
Instructor: Nancy Yen-Wen Cheng

Project Description: The city of Sisters identified the need for 1,100 housing units to accommodate its 2041 projected population growth and is exploring "efficiency measures" as an alternative to expanding its urban growth boundary. Final year Architecture students studied the situation and considered contemporary approaches to how people are choosing to live as the definition of "family" continues to evolve. As innovative design thinking is needed for new household types, students looked at how homes and communities can adapt to changing household needs. They envisioned inclusive places where people can thrive through mutual support and sharing.

Recommendations:

- Locate community buildings or commercial spaces on the northern edge to promote engagement with downtown Sisters.
- Reuse the existing school building as a community center with functions such as recreation, childcare and senior services. Its renovation can be phased over time to fit the community's needs.
- Build housing on the southeast and southwest areas that are currently empty to show how that middle housing can be attractive and affordable.
- Keep parking to the site edges and limit on-site vehicular access, with roads and paths designed to for high-quality walking and biking experience.
- Use earth berms with attractive plantings to reduce highway and roundabout traffic noise.
- Active recreation can be located in the center of the site, with vegetation, berms, and topography adjustments to provide privacy for adjacent homes.
- Sisters School District ownership or part-ownership could make district energy initiatives such as groundsource heat pumps and connected photovoltaic panels cost-effective

Co-Living for the Changing Family: Thriving through Sharing in Expandable Buildings Report



SPRING 2023

Image Credit: Spencer Daigle, Spenser Gould, Jacob Schaepperkoetter-Cochran

Portland Downtown Waterfront Development

Partner: City of Portland
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: Students began by examining existing buildings, transportation infrastructure, environmental conditions, zoning requirements, historical and cultural context, and relevant urban design precedents. Small groups then developed unique urban design proposals for a waterfront site aimed at enhancing downtown Portland's existing qualities and making the city center more welcoming and vibrant.

Recommendations:

Proposal 1

- Design centered on user engagement through recreation, art, and food centered spaces.
- Sustainability strategies centered around water, equity and health, ecology and habitat, transportation, and energy. Creation of mixed housing typologies, high density development, pedestrian centered infrastructure, and expansion of infrastructure to support stormwater management.

Proposal 2

- Development of new housing to create mixed-used residential districts and addition of market hall on Willamette Waterfront to serve as a community center. Reintroduction of an island for ecological development and greater proximity to the River.

Proposal 3

- Connecting Portland downtown to the River and local ecosystems and natural waterways.
- Focuses on proposing solutions for lack of residential areas, lack of ecological focused design, pedestrian access to the river, and lack of yearlong waterfront activation.

Proposal 4

- Design centered on the intermix of recreation and artistic expression. Centering primary art spaces on the Portland Waterfront. Combination of primary ideas through a waterfront amphitheater and spaces for swimming and boating.

Proposal 5

- Proposal focuses on increasing residential density within downtown Portland
- Addition of tree coverage, eco-corridors, and pedestrian-centered design to reduce urban heat island effects and improve air quality.

Proposal 6

- Food, water, and art centered programming and design utilized to link Portland's Green Loop with the Willamette Waterfront.
- Addition of housing to increase residential density within downtown Portland.

Portland Downtown Waterfront Development Report

FALL 2023

Project: Timber Tectonics: Building for the Circular Economy

Partner: City of Salem
Instructor: Nancy Cheng

Project Description: University of Oregon Architecture and Oregon State University Wood Science and Engineering students designed and constructed a temporary park pavilion structure for the Salem Parks Department using “kit-of-parts” construction methods. Centered on the adaptable nature of reciprocal frame construction, students focused on the sustainable reuse of panel materials such as plywood and Mass Plywood Panels. The kit-of parts method meant the structure could be quickly deployed to add immediate benefit to a neighborhood, as well as dissembled, moved, and reassembled.

Recommendations:

- Creation of a picnic shelter and performing space at Highland Park utilizing a kit-of-parts construction method.
- Structural deficiencies in future applications can be solved utilizing a combination of tension structures, adjusting connection openings, and increasing material strength and thickness.
- Future applications can also utilize polycarbonate to deter climbing and contribute towards aesthetics.

Timber Tectonics: Building for the Circular Economy Report

SPRING 2022

Image Credit: Ben Janes & Samuel Wylie

Urban Design Portland Proposals for Portland's Lloyd District

Partner: City of Portland
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: This architectural design studio focused on the Lloyd District in inner northeast Portland. The Lloyd District, characterized by a 1960s shopping mall, Holladay Park, commercial buildings, office towers, and parking lots, has seen a decline in vibrancy. Students studied the district's history, amenities, and potential, collaborating with stakeholders and community partners to address immediate and long-term needs. Common themes in their proposals included significantly increasing residential density to address Portland's housing crisis, revitalizing public spaces to reflect the Lloyd Center mall's former appeal, and integrating sustainable elements like transit connectivity, bioswales, and green spaces to enhance ecological networks.

Recommendations:

Proposal 1
- Development of a Major League Baseball stadium on the current site as a catalyst for developing a pedestrian-oriented commerical district

Proposal 2
- Integration of a creative arts district within the Lloyd District and integration of a community arts center.
- Utilization of various scales and programatic strategies to increase civic engagement.

Proposal 3
- Addition of residential districts alongside Green Loop and primary transit districts.
- Addition of large concert venue and green market that provides opportunity for low-income residents.

Proposal 4
- Utilization of light as an experiental tool for wayfinding and unifying the Lloyd District. Development of a dense commericl district alongside Broadway and Weidler.

Proposal 5
- Addresses need for socio-economic diversity through family-oriented activities and development of high-density residential areas and open public space.

Urban Design Portland Proposals for Portland's Lloyd District Report

SPRING 2021

Image Credit: Justin Stiles

Building Communities for the Future: Affordable Housing on the Overlook Track

Partner: City of Troutdale
Instructor: Jerolim Mladinov

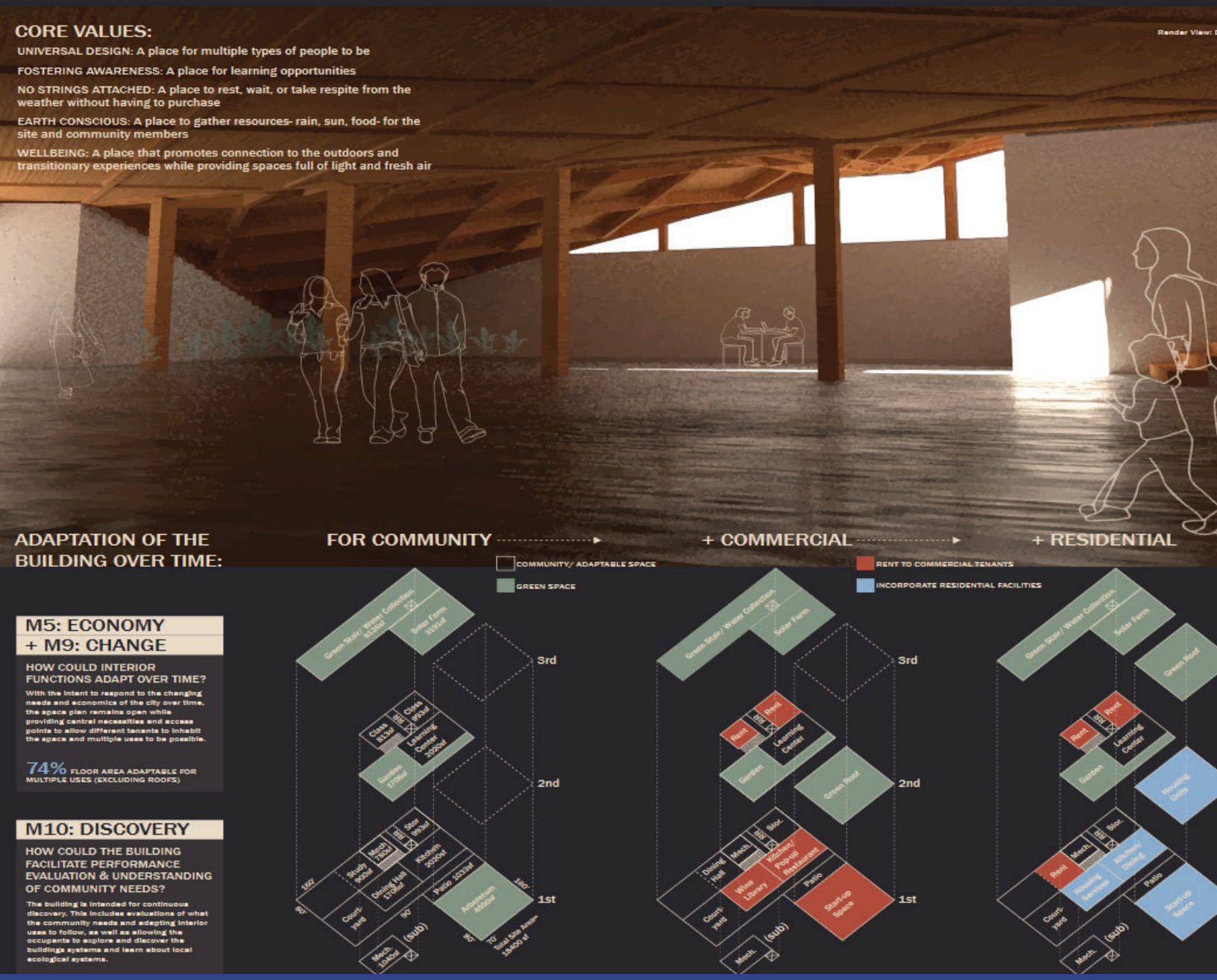
Project Description: Fair access to housing is a pressing issue globally, nationally, and locally. In 2017, Troutdale faced significant challenges, with over one-third of all households being cost-burdened, and renters experiencing an even higher rate of more than half. To address this, the City's recently adopted a Town Center Plan that identified the 4.3-acre "Overlook Tract" as a potential site for affordable housing development in collaboration with Home Forward, a Portland-based affordable housing provider. Students explored urban design and housing typologies at two scales: the City or public realm scale, and the home or domestic environment scale. The proposals aimed to preserve the small-town character of Troutdale, create a unique gateway to the City, accommodate multiple generations on the site, and ensure privacy for residents. Students analyzed the site and surrounding region and developed design proposals based on four distinct frameworks:

1. Views of the Gorge (Linear Buildings)
2. Park with a View (Open Block)
3. Internal Central Park (Closed Block)
4. Neighborhoods (Smaller Housing Clusters)

Recommendations

- Create affordable housing units through a home forward strategy and integration of open public spaces alongside housing options.
- Add farmer's market venue connected through a pedestrian/bike corridor and possibility of spacial adjacencies through transitional spaces.
- Maximize green space through a series of stepped gardens and direction connection to green areas and primary community for housing areas.

Building Communities for the Future: Affordable Housing on the Overlook Track Report



SPRING 2020

Image Credit: Katherine Marple

Downtown Enoteca

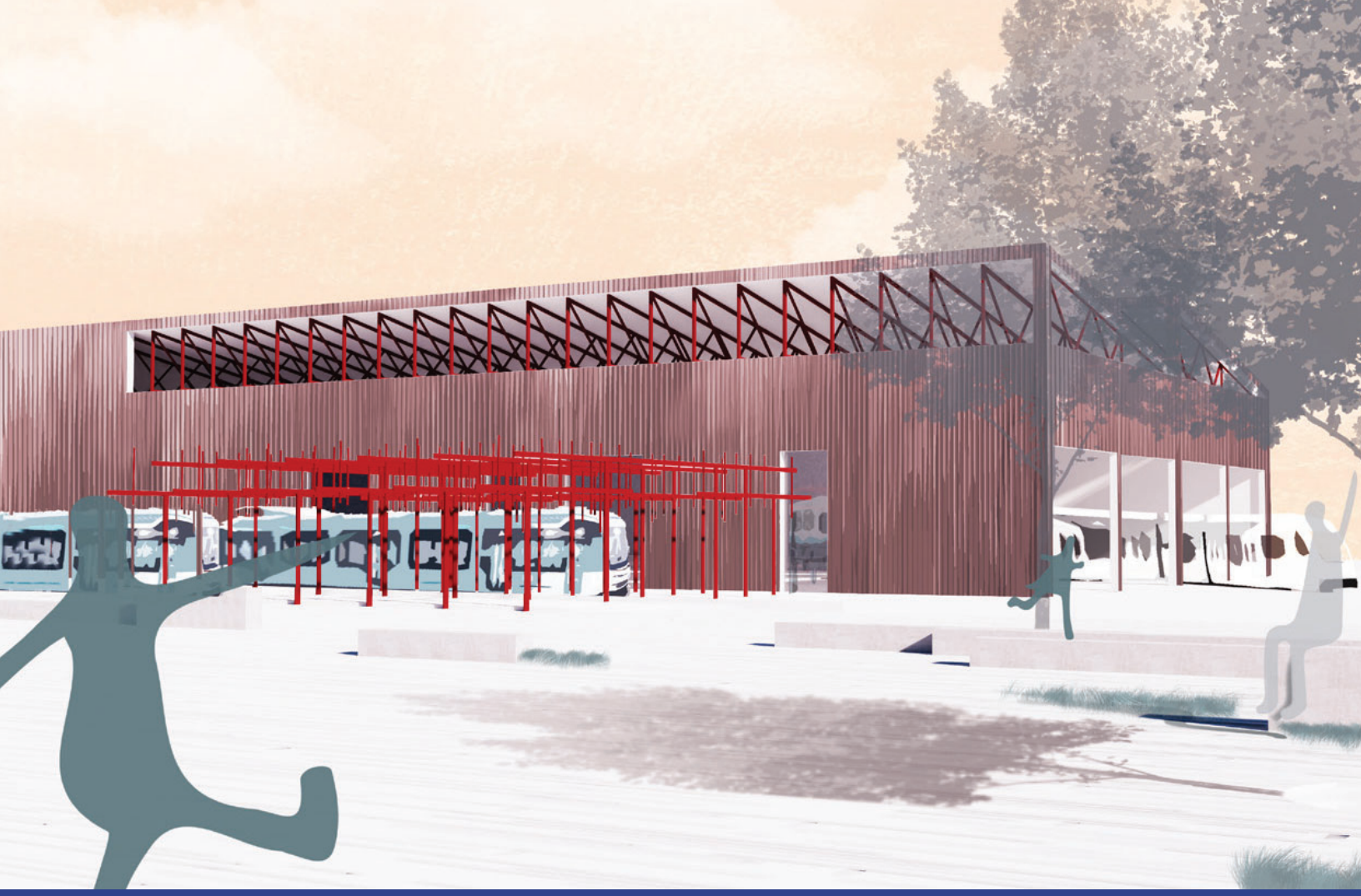
Partner: Lane Transit District
Instructor: Virginia Cartwright

Project Description: Students planned and designed a new sustainably designed "Enoteca," Italian for a local and regional agricultural library, to be located in downtown Eugene, Oregon. The Enoteca is a space to educate the public about southern Willamette Valley wine production. Students also designed a ballroom and a restaurant providing farm-to-table cuisine. Students incorporated other uses that they believed would enhance Eugene residents' lifestyle and needs. The location would help enhance the LTD's Eugene Station environment and expand an active part of Downtown Eugene.

Recommendations:

- Development of mixed-use buildings alongside Willamette Street, and 10th and 11th Avenues adjacent to LTD's Eugene Station.
- Incorporation of integrated sustainability strategies into design proposals that focused on ecology, water systems, energy, resource utilization, and accessibility.

Downtown Enoteca Report



SPRING 2018

Image Credit: Emily Buckberg, Angelo DeBlase, Ethan Zagorec-Marks

Destination: Tigard Transit-Oriented Development and Urban Design Strategies

Partner: TriMet
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: Students proposed urban design ideas and city identify concepts for potential downtown Tigard light rail station areas. Key recommendations included: creating connections to the existing town; celebrating Fanno Creek and its trail system; redesigning Hall Boulevard to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility; and redefining the city grid to create more manageable block sizes. These proposals prioritized sustainable urban design through effective street design, stormwater management, pedestrian-friendly public spaces, and mixed-use development strategies. Students also investigated contemporary trends in 'Sustainable Urbanism,' applying these insights to address urban design challenges and envision a future where Tigard is a desirable place to live, develop, and enjoy public spaces.

Recommendations:

- Creation of safe and walkable pedestrian corridors and pedestrian-centered zoning and design.
- Axial blocks that serve as sources of urban identity and connection. Recentering of the MAX Station Plaza as a central experiential area for residents and visitors.
- Urban design strategies focusing on ecological and hydrological design of existing streets. Addtion of wetlands and permeable surfaces onto existing streets.
- Redevelopment in order to connect corridors and new transportation nodes and public spaces, therefore inceasing walkability of Tigard.

Destination: Tigard Transit-Oriented Development and Urban Design Strategies Report

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FALL 2017

Image Credit: Jilian Carlo

A Front Porch for Oregon Health and Science University and Marquam Hill

Partner: TriMet
Instructor: Brook Muller

Project Description: Students explored urban design proposals for TriMet's Marquam Hill area as well as a larger area that included an east-west transect of southwest Portland to the Willamette River, South Waterfront, Lair Hill, Barbur Boulevard ("the front porch to OHSU"), Terwilliger Parkway, and beyond. Students also examined the implications of two proposed MAX line extensions located on either Southwest Naito Parkway or Southwest Barbur Boulevard, as well as the potential implications to surrounding neighborhoods and the city in general.

Recommendations:
Opportunity for transforming pathways and commuting experience for pedestrians. Addition of primary public space alongside transportation pathways.

A Front Porch for Oregon Health and Science University and Marquam Hill Report

University of Oregon | School of Architecture & Environment | SCYP Sustainable City Year Program | SCI Sustainable Cities Institute

WINTER 2016

Image Credit: Hieu Vo

Adaptive Reuse:
A Public Safety Facility for Redmond Police

Partner: City of Redmond
Instructor: Joseph Moore

Project Description: Students proposed designs for an adaptive reuse public safety facility in Redmond, Oregon. The building had served as a National Guard training facility and the city was considering it as a future location for the Redmond Police Department, which was in need of a larger, updated facility. Generally, the intent of this project included: preserving the existing structure as much as possible and adding approximately 20,000 square feet. Specific requirements included proximity of various program elements, incorporation of an existing shed for evidence storage, a public wing that was securely separate from the police workspace, and improved wayfinding and circulation in the police workspaces.

Recommendations: Designs proposed a building with an open central core, an inviting exterior, and a strong emphasis on security. Nearly all the designs incorporated sustainability elements such as the use of solar energy and a bioswale on the site. Students also identified the importance of the building's appearance to project a symbolic image of the police department.

Adaptive Reuse: A Public Safety Facility for Redmond Police

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FALL 2016

Image Credit: Shirley Huang

Eat, Play, Shop: Downtown Albany Re-Imagined

Partner: City of Albany
Instructor: Joseph Moore

Project Description: Working within the goals of the Albany Retail Refinement Plan, students considered how to revitalize downtown Albany through a lens of either food equity, economic equity, or social equity. Students looked at one of three downtown Albany sites for their design proposals.

Recommendations:

1. **Site 1 (Eat - Food Equity):** The project focuses on supporting Albany's local food system by proposing a permanent location for the Albany Farmers Market, as well as commercial kitchen spaces and incubator spaces for start-up food businesses. The design includes areas for eating, performance spaces, and urban farming. The goal is to enhance food culture and interaction while addressing the site's current underutilization.

2. **Site 2 (Shop - Economic Equity):** This project aims to revitalize the historic St. Francis Hotel and the E.H. Rhodes Block by retaining the historic building shell while renovating the interior. The proposal includes a mixed-use space featuring hotel rooms, retail shops, restaurants, and residential units. The focus is on increasing commercial activity downtown, supporting both permanent residents and visitors, and preserving the unique historical identity of the site.

3. **Site 3 (Play - Social Equity):** The project envisions creating an entertainment and performance space near the future Carousel Museum. The design includes flexible theater spaces, classrooms for arts education, and public outdoor areas. The goal is to foster social interaction, learning, and performances, turning the site into a cultural hub that attracts diverse audiences.

Eat, Play, Shop: Downtown Albany Re-Imagined Report

WINTER 2014

Image Credit: Allen Chung

Medford Fire Facility Design

Partner: Medford
Instructor: Virginia Cartwright

Project Description: This class explored the issues, opportunities, and design concepts for four fire station sites in Medford, Oregon, aiming to create new facilities aligned with LEED certification standards. Students focused on:

- supporting fire-rescue staff and vehicles
- incorporating community identity
- promoting sustainable practices
- fostering community involvement through versatile site usage

Student research incorporated existing designs, emerging trends, and technologies. The proposed schemes varied in design and layout but include the common themes of flexibility, integration with city infrastructure, and energy-consciousness. Ultimately, these innovative designs sought to enhance neighborhood identity and foster an efficient, sustainable fire department.

Recommendations: Design proposals focusing on LEED Silver certification. Strategies focused on rainwater collection, runoff bioswales, solar hot water collectors, and photovoltaic arrays. Student proposals served as methods of rethinking the design of fire-rescue facilities.

Medford Fire Facility Design Report

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Architecture & Environment | SCYP Sustainable City Year Program | SCI Sustainable Cities Institute

WINTER 2011

Image Credit: Matt Linn

North Downtown Waterfront Development

Partner: Salem
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: Students analyzed existing site conditions and followed with urban design proposals for the future of the Salem's north downtown waterfront area. Using these urban design schemes as the new site context, students selected a building type and location within the site for their individual designs, based on existing and proposed amenities, city and community feedback, and investigations into the needs and possibilities for the north downtown site. The projects produced a range of building types, including main attractions, housing, and neighborhood amenities, and could work individually or in conjunction with another proposed design.

Recommendations: Student proposals focused on developing buildings guided by both community engagement and sustainability strategies. These ideas worked in tandem to bring attention to the civic history and culture of the City of Salem. Many proposals focused on how the waterfront can be engaged, as well as the utilization of water as a design strategy.

North Downtown Waterfront Development Report

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON School of Architecture & Environment
SCYP Sustainable City Year Program
SCI Sustainable Cities Institute

Image Credit: Ben Bye, Dijon Jones, Emilio Todescato

FALL 2010

Not Big Box: Waremart Redevelopment Plan

Partner: Springfield
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: Student groups explored urban design concepts for future redevelopment of the former Waremart site, located at the intersection of Mohawk Boulevard and Centennial Boulevard. Groups focused on scenarios based on three primary uses for the site: employment, mixed-income housing, or medical-related development. Students explored site conditions and other factors influencing development on the site, leading to key issues that were then addressed in the various design proposals.

Recommendations: Development of mixed-use urban plans guided by several design strategies:

Sustainable Identity
- Method of creating a unique influential identity.
- Water mitigation strategies to reduce water runoff and urban heat isand effects.
- Adaptive reuse strategies of existing buildings to reduce construction waste.

Walkability & Connectivity
- Introduction of block structure on site, reduce parking lot sizes, and create safe pedestrian areas.

Parking
- Broken up parking lots with bioswales.
- Focus on on-street parking to reduce parking lot demands and bring activity to the street.

Sustainable Streets
- Design of bioswales on road edges to mitigate water runoff from streets.
- On-street parking as a method to deter traffic and reduce desire to drive on those streets.

Phased Design
- Consider future development and phases of development.
- Importance of block structure within site.
- Strategy of renovation as an impetus for future site development, lower cost of renovation.

Mohawk Neighborhood
- Creation of a bike route along 16th Street to connect the site to downtown and the McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center.
- Creation of connections within Mohawk Neighborhood.

Mixed Use Development
- Mixed-use throughout the site to encourage activity throughout the day and synergies between neighborhoods and businesses.
- Incorporate the presence of local businesses within a variety of scales.

Not Big Box: Waremart Redevelopment Plan Report

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Architecture & Environment | SCYP Sustainable City Year Program | SCI Sustainable Cities Institute

Image Credit: Lauren Bruni, Roussa Cassel, Ratana Suon

FALL 2009

Sustainable Suburbs: Rockwood Town Center Redevelopment Design

Partner: Gresham
Instructor: Nico Larco

Project Description: The Sustainable Suburbs studio focused on designing sustainable urban plans for the City of Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood. The students aimed to enhance ecological function and reduce carbon emissions, as well as address equitable and economic aspects by promoting local identity, cultural diversity, and community pride. Students created six different schemes, prioritizing public space and community amenities, considering fiscal constraints, and proposed phased development plans.

Recommendations:

Public Space
- Provide a plaza and series of open spaces near the city center and Max Station.

Sustainable Development
- Provide an ecological method of development through connected water and habitat systems alongside local and sustainable food systems.
- Stormwater runoff is reduced through permeable surfaces and plantings.
- Building massing and configuration should take advantage of solar access.

Connectivity & Walkability
- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Enhance walkability within Gresham through green streets, buildings that engage the street, and appropriate sidewalk design.

Mixed Use
- Implement phased development.
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to promote self-reliance on a variety of scales.

Sense of Place
- Celebrate cultural diversity of the area with inclusive design and opportunities for special events.
- Build from unique characteristics of the area and implement high-quality design.

Parking
- Reduce necessity of parking spots by developing transit-oriented design.

Sustainable Suburbs Rockwood Town Center Development Design