ARCH 4101 / 7101
TOPIC DESIGN STUDIO

The Studio @ Little | Fall 2023

Little | 615 S. College Street Suite 1600
*This studio will be held at Little's office in Uptown Charlotte, two days will be in person at the office with the other being by appointment in the evening
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Premise

Charlotte is one of the fastest growing and most rapidly densifying cities in the United States. Yet, its urban environment is only loosely planned and its overall organization seems scattershot at best. Often in this market, developer-driven concepts precede architectural intervention, resulting in proforma driven environments that don't have an exceedingly strong track record of urban design success in Charlotte. An architectural analysis and approach is needed in order to facilitate the continued development of Charlotte's urban center.

In this studio we will take a comprehensive look at a large swath, approximately 25 blocks, of Charlotte's First Ward where we will rapidly analyze, study, digest and articulate each of these blocks for future development before honing in on a single element for study. We will utilize a combination of digital modeling, analytical tools, design softwares as well as physical modeling techniques as methods for exploration and presentation throughout the semester.

Program

Each student group will study and analyze many different mixed-use program types and building typologies over the course of the semester before honing in on a single edifice for further execution. This final design project explores ideas of sustainable urban concepts at the scale of the city (macroscale), block (mesoscale) and at the scale of a human (microscale), ultimately resulting in a comprehensively studied, planned and executed plan for Charlotte's First Ward.

Preliminary Bibliography

Koolhaas, R. (2002). Junkspace. October, 100, 175-190. doi: 10.1162/016228702760526922

Mehaffy, M. (2019). A New Pattern Language. Axminster, UK: Triarchy Press.

Alexander, C., Ishikawa, S., & Silverstein, M. (1977). A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Sample Precedent Projects

Peter Eisenman, City of Culture of Galicia https://eisenmanarchitects.com/City-of-Culture-of-Galicia-2011

Morphosis, IFCCA New York City Park https://www.morphosis.com/planning/102/

Renzo Piano, Masterplan for the Ex Falck Area of Milan
https://www.designboom.com/architecture/renzo-piano-masterplan-for-the-ex-falck-area/

Software + Fabrication

Adobe Suite, AutoCAD, REVIT, Rhino, Grasshopper, Testfit, 3d Printing, Laser Cutting