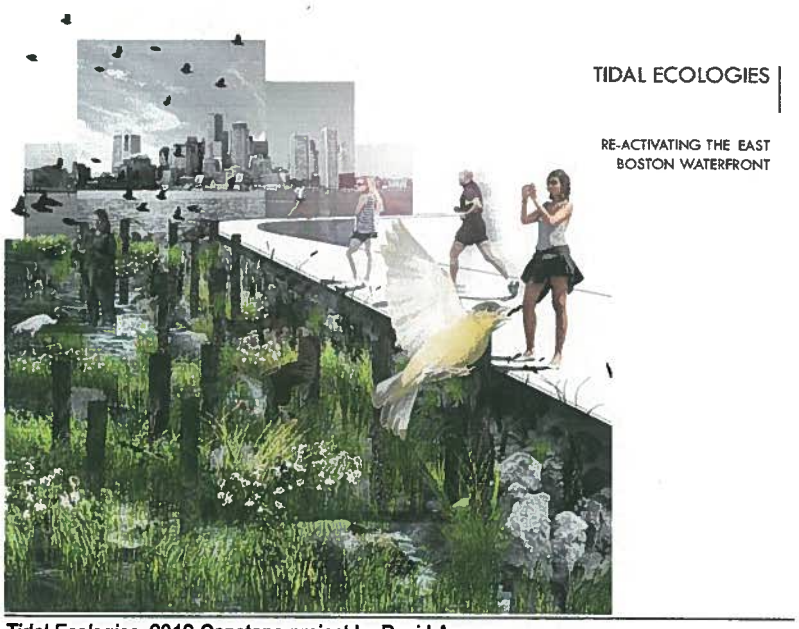
LAND447: Comprehensive Landscape Design – Capstone Studio
Spring 2014 / 4 credits / 1:00pm – 4:50pm Tuesday, Thursday / NESB B110
Instructor: Jane Choi / jane.choi@colostate.edu / NESB B108 / Office hours by appointment



Tidal Ecologies, 2012 Capstone project by David Armesy

Overview

The senior capstone studio is an opportunity for students to spend a semester immersed in intensive research, analysis and design explorations focused on a site or topic of their own choosing. Through directed scholarship, individual critiques and group reviews, students are afforded the freedom to examine a personal interest within the field of landscape architecture that they may not otherwise be exposed to within the standard studio curriculum. Students are encouraged to choose subjects that incorporate aspects of current thinking in landscape architectural practice, such as landscape urbanism, sustainable sites, contemporary design trends or green infrastructure, which will broaden understanding of the profession and better position the student for employment following graduation. Through the course of their project work, students are expected to rigorously continue to develop their technical skills, including digital and manual drafting and representation techniques, analytical software such as GIS and design ideation and methodology.

Pedagogic Objectives

Students are expected to expand and deepen their knowledge of the practice and profession of landscape architecture through focused research and design activity. The independent nature of this course will require that students maintain a self-regulated schedule of activities, punctuated by instructor-mandated deadlines for various forms of deliverables. Student activities will include, but not be limited to, research, writing, site and urban analysis, design ideation, drawing and drafting, physical and digital model making and public presentations. The instructor will critique student work on a regular basis, both individually and in group settings. Students will be expected to defend their research and ideas, as well as participate in the critique of the work of fellow capstone students. In the end, the work produced in this studio should be the centerpiece of the student's portfolio and the culmination of all that has been learned in the CSU Landscape Architecture Program, showcasing a broad range of skills and aptitudes.

Class Policy

Attendance

Given the rapid succession of topics and assignments to be covered during the course of the semester, prompt and consistent attendance is mandatory, with exceptions made only for illness and family emergencies. The instructor can be reached by e-mail (jane.choi@colostate.edu) at any time during the school week. Class will meet from 1:00pm to 4:50pm every Tuesday and Thursday as outlined in the schedule. Office hours are by appointment.

All assignments and presentation materials need to be produced prior to the start of class on the day it is due. Unless instructed otherwise, digital materials may be submitted via e-mail, RamCT posting, or on physical media (CD). All files shall be clearly labeled with your name and the title of the assignment or image. Please plan your schedule accordingly to allow for needed production work.

Additional Assistance

Any students having difficulties due to personal or physical constraints should consult with the instructor prior to the beginning of the semester in order to develop alternative strategies for progressing through the course. The instructor should be informed of any unavoidable absences as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements for the missed class can be made.

Assessment

Students will be asked to work independently on their individual projects. Class presentations are expected from each student at periodic intervals and should be anticipated at the completion of each major assignment in order to develop the student's public speaking skills and to promote a culture of learning and sharing of ideas within the class.

Although largely responsible for their own work schedules, students will be expected to meet set deadlines for various deliverables throughout the semester. The specific work products to be produced are sequential by reason and serve to incrementally contribute to the students' capacity to fulfill the demands of a comprehensive studio design project. The work presented at each benchmark will be graded and will be reflected in the final grade for the course; in other words, students will be graded not only on their work at the final presentation, but on their steady progress throughout the semester as well. Specific grading details are listed below under the Grading Policy category.

Deliverables

All design representation materials to be presented in pin-ups and reviews need to be produced prior to the start of class. All assignment handouts, readings and lectures will be posted on the course RamCT site. Unless instructed otherwise, digital materials may be submitted via e-mail, RamCT posting, or on physical media (CD). **No application-formatted files (Photoshop, InDesign, AutoCAD, etc.) will be accepted.** JPG images or PDF files are expected unless otherwise noted. All files shall be clearly labeled with your name and the title of the assignment or image. Please plan your schedule accordingly to allow for needed production time.

Grading Policy

Grade Assessment of Work:
Work is evaluated by your instructor on the basis of interaction during desk critiques and project reviews. This evaluation includes consideration of the following:

- Daily progress towards completing the goals of project
- Quality of work presented (Originality of thought, craftsmanship & professionalism)
- Verbal and graphic explanation of work
- Response to criticism and suggestions
- Participation and contribution to the class
- Initiative and self-reliance
- And, demonstrated achievement in accomplishing intent

Grade Breakdown
50% Mid-term Submittal
50% Final Submittal

Score	Grade	Description
98 or greater	A+	Exceptional Quality of Work
94-97	A	Excellent
90-93	A-	Very Good
87-89	B+	Good
84-86	B	Average
80-83	B-	Below Average
70-79	C	Fair
60-69	D	Poor
59 and below	F	Fail, Incomplete and/or Unacceptable Quality of Work

Late assignment policy
Assignments that are completed late will be penalized 1 point for each day past the due date. Assignments that are completed more than two weeks late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 'F'.

Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation for this and all courses, and is taken very seriously at Colorado State University. Each student is expected to complete his or her own work without any unauthorized assistance and to give credit to others where credit is due. All graded activities of the course will comply.

For more information, please refer to the Colorado State University website for the Academic Integrity Program at http://tilt.colostate.edu/integrity.

I pledge on my honor that I will not give, receive or use any unauthorized assistance in this course.

_____
Student signature

_____
Print name and date

Schedule of Classes (subject to revision):

Week 1 (1/21 - 1/23)	Class Introduction • project / site selection • narrative description of proposed project / problem statement • precedent images and documents that support thesis
Week 2 (1/28 - 1/30)	**Project Narrative Presentations** Site Reconnaissance • site documentation (photos, narratives, architectural drawings) • historical and contextual information • orthophotos and aerial images
Week 3 (2/4 - 2/6)	Base Information • preparation of base plan (including structures, property lines, topography, vegetation, surface materials, etc.)
Week 4 (2/11 - 2/13)	**Progress Presentations** Site Visualization • physical model of existing site conditions (including elements documented in base plan)
Week 5 (2/18 - 2/20)	Analysis and Diagramming • collection of GIS data sets • analytical diagrams of individual data sets
Week 6 (2/25 - 2/27)	Analysis and Diagramming • cross-mapping (comparative analysis of multiple data sets)
Week 7 (3/4 - 3/6)	Design Strategy • strategic diagrams and drawings • schedule of design activities • illustrative master plan
Week 8 (3/11 - 3/13)	*CELA Conference – no class*
Week 9 (3/18 - 3/20)	*Spring Break – no class*
Week 10 (3/25 - 3/27)	**Mid-Review Presentations** Mid-Review Submittal Preparation of Detailed Site Design Work Schedule
Week 11 (4/1 - 4/3)	Site Design
Week 12 (4/8 - 4/10)	Site Design
Week 13 (4/15 - 4/17)	Site Design
Week 14 (4/22 - 4/24)	**Progress Presentations**
Week 15 (4/29 - 5/1)	Site Design
Week 16 (5/6 - 5/8)	Final Review Preparation
Week 17 (5/13 - 5/15)	**Final-Review Presentations** Final Review Submittals

LAND447: Comprehensive Landscape Design – Capstone Studio
Student Name - Project Narrative (Sample)

Project Title: The Activated Waterfront: Re-Energizing the East Boston Waterfront (Boston, MA)

Project Statement: The East Boston waterfront exists today as a post-industrial, underutilized parcel of land facing the Boston Harbor. Its location within the urban framework of Boston demands a sound infrastructural plan to be initiated in order to establish social, cultural, and ecological connections with the surrounding environment at an urban scale. The proposed East Boston Waterfront Master Plan will provide a strong framework for re-energizing the waterfront centered around ecological infrastructures as a fundamental component of urban design.

Project Narrative: In the late 17th century, Boston Harbor was a thriving center of ecological biodiversity, comprised of expansive tidal mudflats and salt marshes that gently wove the land into the sea. As populations grew, the rolling hills that comprised the Boston peninsula were cut down and used to fill the tidal marshes while the harbor was dredged and channeled in an effort to make way for the rapidly growing shipping industry, which flourished for over a century. Now, the crumbling piers and derelict land that line the shore of East Boston stand as visual reminders of a community that was once an economic center for the maritime industry. The steady decline of water-dependent industries has left the waterfront of East Boston empty and neglected, no longer the economic powerhouse of the neighborhoods centered around it. Today, it is the last remaining undeveloped waterfront of Boston's urban harbor. The shoreline is positioned directly opposite Boston's Financial District across the mouth of the Mystic River, making it one of the only waterfronts to provide sweeping views of the entire Boston skyline. Its location presents a unique opportunity to establish a strong waterfront presence for this struggling neighborhood by re-energizing the shoreline through its historic ecological roots.

Methods: I will begin the process by studying the history of the area and charting trends in development and the extent of ecological disturbances that have occurred along the waterfront over time. Concurrently, I will research precedents of similar sites to discover how other designers have successfully dealt with this type of condition and consider the variety of possible interventions. I will produce analytical diagrams to study existing land uses, infrastructure, economic conditions and wildlife habitat and figure out what opportunities for improvement exist. The above studies will be produced in the form of physical models, diagrams, GIS maps and analytical models. My design process for proposed solutions will be directly informed by my analysis of the site and understanding of precedents and their appropriateness to this specific site. My design work will be produced through physical models and digital media, using a combination of AutoCAD, the Adobe Suite and SketchUp.

Deliverables:

- Photodocumentation of existing conditions
- Photos of historical images of the site and its changes over time
- Context plan – delineating site limits and external conditions
- Topographic site and context model
- Working models of design development
- Rendered digital site plan of proposed design
- Illustrative site sections and elevations
- Analytical diagrams
- Proposed green infrastructure and 'ecological services' diagrams
- Detailed planting strategy
- Illustrative perspective renderings