

LARCH 6920: Graduate Design Studio II: Dynamic Systems

Instructor name: Jake Boswell
Year and term: Spring 13
Meeting time: MWF 1:50-6:15
Meeting location: Graduate Studio

COURSE INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

Like most major cities, Columbus' relationship with its rivers and their watersheds has been an abusive one at best. Recent developments such as the City's Wet Weather Management Plan have coupled with the emerging, obligatory, notion of sustainability/ecology as development driver, causing Columbus to reconsider this longstanding antagonism. The Olentangy River is, arguably, the most urbanized, and thus most highly impacted of Columbus' urban rivers. For much of the last century, the Olentangy River has acted not only as funnel for the city's urban run-off, but also as a convenient route for the city's sanitary waste and transportation conduits. While the river will invariably continue to serve as a major hub and channel for civic infrastructure, can it become something else as well? A number of recent plans have suggested that the Olentangy River might be transformed into a river greenway, connecting important habitat and recreational landscapes along it's lower reaches. But beyond the vision statements and sustainability aphorisms how will this happen?

This course will consider the 2012 study "Olentangy River Greenway" as a starting point for critical investigation into, and design speculation on, the future of the river. Throughout this project we will explore the central question: How does the suggestion of a highly public program act within and respond to a chemically, biologically and ecologically altered, infrastructuralized and highly dynamic site?

GOALS

During this course students will:

- Continue development of site analysis and site design skills.
- Develop a grounding in contemporary landscape theory around systems and infrastructure.
- Utilize systems diagramming as a method of breaking down complex systems into understandable parts.
- Utilize analysis as a way to identify a critical point for design intervention.
- Further site design skills relative to a medium scale, publicly accessible, site within a much larger context.
- Gain an understanding of tools and strategies for intervening within a dynamic site.
- Author a critical and responsive design intervention within the Lower Olentangy River Watershed.

FORMAT

Each student will be responsible for two major assignments during the course of the quarter. The most important of these is, of course, the design project. The design project will be broken into four stages: Site Analysis, Precedent Analysis, Project Proposal, and Site Design.

The second major grade for the course will be based on your performance as the discussion leader during the literature review portion of the course. In order to execute the project in an informed manner it is essential to enter the relevant discourse surrounding the project