

University of British Columbia | School of Architecture + Landscape Architecture
ARCH 520 Design Studio III: Urban Design | 9 credits | Fall 2024

Instructors: Ouri Scott scott@urban-arts.ca and Jergus Oprsal joprsal@sala.ubc.ca

Meeting Times: Tuesdays & Fridays, 1:30PM to 6:00PM

The Campus - Exploring Reconciliation in the Urban Context



Overview

ARCH 520, Design Studio III of the M.Arch. program, explores architecture and urbanism in the context of urban, suburban, or community-scale design. It situates architecture in a complex, often contested public realm with the potential to address issues of social, environmental, and spatial justice.

This Urban Design studio will investigate how to address reconciliation in the context of urban design and campus planning. The Native Education College site in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant neighbourhood will be used as case study to examine what education and the campus means in the context of healing from residential schools and building a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect and partnership in our city landscape.

The studio will explore the campus in the context of the changing neighbourhood context, the site history and ecology and the Broadway Plan. Students will explore storytelling as a method to develop a voice and document a site narrative. The studio will explore concepts of the campus, Indigenous pedagogy and how it relates to urban design.

Students will prepare a rezoning proposal / campus masterplan for the Native Education College site.

Site Visit

The class will do a walking tour of the NEC Site at the corner of East 5th Avenue and Scotia Street and around the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood.

Guest Speakers

Week 2 - Broadway Plan - Vancouver Park Board Open Space Planner - Justin Neufeld

Week 3 - Local Knowledge Keepers - Hereditary Chief, Ian Campbell and Chesha7 at Stelmexw menmen, Mandy Nahanee, Former NEC Student

Week 4 - City of Reconciliation - Ginger Gosnell Meyers

Assignments, Presentations & Desk Crits

There will be 4 assignments which will have in-person presentations and a digital submission. Desk crits will take place throughout the studio.

Presentations happening in the following weeks:

Week 3 - Assignment 1 - **Site Interpretations**

Week 4 - Assignment 2 - Part 1 - **Storytelling Part 1 - Site Analysis Precedent Study**

Week 5 - Assignment 2 - Part 2 - **Storytelling Part 2 - Site Inventory and Analysis**

Week 9 - Assignment 3 - Midterm - **Guiding Principles and Campus Density Concept Options**

Week 14 - Assignment 4 - Final Review - **Rezoning Proposal / Campus Masterplan**

In setting the Native Education College campus in the context of Indigenous pedagogy and culture, the city and more specifically the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood and the Broadway Plan, students will consider local Indigenous history, reconciliation, and campus development through urban design.

Assignment 1: Site Interpretations

The goal of the presentation is to reflect on your initial impressions and sensations from exploring the site.

- How does it feel, look, smell, taste, sound to be in this space?
- What are your first impressions of the site and its urban context?
- What feelings inspire you and make you want to visit the site and why?

Use descriptive and evocative language as well as hand sketches, video, collage, models etc...

Assignment 2: Storytelling Part 1 - Site Analysis Precedent Study

Each group will research and present one example of a site analysis completed by other studio/designers that uniquely tells a story of the open space, the buildings, and the surrounding context with graphic representation.

- What elements do make the site analysis resonate / stand out?
- How is the storytelling woven into the graphic material?

Analyse the structure of the chosen precedent study and provide arguments explaining why it works well.

Assignment 2: Storytelling Part 2 - Site Inventory and Analysis

Following the precedent study research, site visit(s) and lectures from two local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, a former NEC student, an Urban Indigenous Policy and Planning Specialist and a Vancouver Park Board Open-Space Planner, each group will prepare a comprehensive site analysis that tells the story of the site's history, ecology and existing context.

Each group will develop a story of the site based on research they have done to document a site inventory and present their analysis in the form of visual storytelling with maps, diagrams and drawings.

Assignment 3: Guiding Principles and Campus Density Concept Options

Students will have the opportunity to explore urban design approaches to campus design, Indigenous Pedagogy & NEC's Vision and Development Goals. Using the story developed in Assignment 2, in conjunction with the provided NEC program requirements and NEC Vision, each group will develop Guiding Principles for their design. The Guiding Principles will reflect the approach, programming requirements and vision in succinct statements and be illustrated with diagrams.

Students will then use the Guiding Principles they have developed to prepare two Campus concept options that test the form, character and density of the campus in the context of the Broadway Plan in plan, site sections and diagrams. The two Campus concepts will be used to explore ideas and design approaches. They will be presented at the mid-term review. The feedback will be used to develop a preferred concept that will form the basis of a Rezoning Proposal / Campus Masterplan.

Assignment 4: Rezoning Proposal / Campus Masterplan

The final assignment is to develop a Rezoning Proposal / Campus Masterplan for the Native Education College campus. The rezoning / campus masterplan will propose the form, character, height and density of the campus. The proposals will take into consideration the neighbourhood context, site ecology, NEC's vision and development goals and will explore ideas of reconciliation.

The final presentation will include similar drawings and material as required by the City of Vancouver's rezoning process. The final deliverables will include a digital presentation and booklet.

Deliverables:

Assignments 1 - 3 will be presented digitally in a slideshow format.

Assignment 4 will include a digital presentation and a digital booklet.

Detailed assignment requirements will be given throughout the course.

Studio Outcome

In setting the Native Education College campus in the context of reconciliation, indigenous pedagogy, the city and more specifically the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood and the Broadway Plan, students will consider local Indigenous history, the Urban Indigenous context and campus development through urban design.