Introduction: The idea for this advanced architecture studio or thesis design studio is to help re-establish neighborhoods and urban districts, buildings and streets, plazas and parks, that have been destroyed by war, terrorism and natural disaster. Examples of the last 15 years include the terrorist attack in New York and the rebuilding at Ground Zero, it also includes the earthquake in San Francisco with the rebuilding of the Bay Bridge. Other recent catastrophes include the Haiti Earthquake, the triple disaster in Japan's Tohoku region (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown), as well as the tornados in the South of the US, and the flooding of the Mississippi. The main purpose of the studio is to contribute to the rediscovery, redesign, and rebuilding of disaster areas and its buildings for communities and people.

The Urban Architecture Program in Portland focuses on urban architecture and urban sustainability in Portland and other cities in the US and abroad. This is a thesis studio with the general topical focus, and the overall project selected by the instructor. The design studio is preceded by a mandatory fall term thesis preparation research seminar 407/507 with the studios in the winter quarter 2012 and spring quarter 2012. Also a few preparatory exercises in the summer of 2011 are requested. The emphasis of the studio is to design in and for a devastated area and to develop a comprehensive urban architectural project within this context backed by theoretical explorations, creative work, and rigorous research efforts. Students will select a disaster area, study it, and redesign all or part of it. There are two components to this design. The first part is an urban design exercise that can be done either in groups collectively or individually. The second component deals with the design of an individual building project within the destruction zone that needs to be fully designed by the individual student.
REGENERATIVE DESIGN
Redesigning and Rebuilding Cities, Towns, Neighborhoods, Streets, Buildings and Gardens, Destroyed by War, Terrorism and Natural Disaster

Portland Urban Architecture Program
University of Oregon | 20012
Hajo Neis, Ph, D.
In Northern Japan, where the rugged coast meets many pristine beaches, the town of Ishinomaki has long enjoyed the beauty and bounty of the surrounding sea. But benefit rarely comes without hazard and, as with many of the nearby cities, Ishinomaki was severely damaged by Tsunami.

Many generations of Ishinomakans have lived at this cherished seaside location and, while there is no lack of desire to rebuild for a new future, there is desire to design a more Tsunami-resistant city. Such a rebirth would need to include both economic revitalization and protection of the cultural heritage of Ishinomaki.

The foundation of this rebuilding process will need to balance four primary goals: 1) tsunami-resistance, 2) sustainability, 3) economic revitalization and 4) social community.

The most important factor in designing a tsunami-resistant city is safety. With this prime directive, the concept of “using nature to protect from nature” has evolved. Since there is no singular system that can adequately protect the community from a tsunami, a “multi-buffer system is necessary. These seven buffers include: 1) restoration of the previously existing sand dune and associated tsunami-resistant vegetation, 2) restoration of a high-friction water edge, 3) creation of a canal (running parallel to an incoming wave), 4) creation of an undulating and terracing seaside park, with tsunami-resistant vegetation, 5) elevation of 20-30 feet of the new development site, 6) radiation of the new urban plan to avoid direct penetration of the incoming wave and 7) creation of “green fingers“ to provide for rapid evacuation routes.

.....Since the beginning of time, both Mankind and nature have been capable of both extreme Fury and remarkable Frailty. Yet a beautiful balance exists when we build our lives and habitats respecting both extremes.....
Wastewater Treatment Facility
Rikuzentakata, a town in the Tohoku prefecture of Japan known for its beauty and proximity to the ocean, was destroyed in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami disaster with over 80% of the town's infrastructure falling victim to the massive wave. Rising Landscape is a design for the sustainable future of this town so that generations can enjoy the beauty of Rikuzentakata, serving as a precedent for rebuilding after disaster. With a declining population prior to the tsunami, Rikuzentakata needs a reason to bring more people to the town and maintain the population that is living in the area. The overall city plan accepts the surrounding water as an opportunity and provides three separate nodes of activity to begin the revitalization of this town: a tourism district, entertainment district and business or city center. Providing landscape variations, waterways, a radial grid, direct and vertical evacuation and density, these areas are assumed to be built in a sustainable and linear manor. A baseball stadium is proposed to be the new epicenter of the entertainment district, the radiating language of the stadium is to be adopted by the surrounding area, creating an urban greenscape that sets a precedent for the city blocks if the town. Rikuzentakata's new stadium will be a precedent for what the future of an urban stadium is, and provides seating on the top of three volumes, each housing the program of a different space beneath it.
A public bath, a market as well as the programmatic elements of a baseball stadium will allow the facility to be used even when no baseball game is being played and recognizes that the size of the building is very large for a town of this size. The building addresses the natural with the built in both materiality and function, rising from the landscape and just as nature is unpredictable, the stadium will have an accommodating adaptable program. “We live with the tsunami” is the cultural understanding and the planning and built decisions behind the Rising Landscape project are meant to showcase a place with constantly blending ecotones, where nature and manmade are combined in a variety of ways from contrasting to seamless. Even amidst disaster, Rikuzentakata can maintain its beauty by accepting misfortune as an opportunity to look toward a sustainable future, embracing water in all its forms from still and silent to violent and destructive.
RESHAPING LANDSCAPES

A new urban landscape and ecological research center for understanding dynamic waterways in the high prairie.

Patrick Fisher
Souris River Valley - Minot, North Dakota
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M. ARCH Option II

Our connectedness to nature depends on the ability of our cities to change along with the natural landscape that they are located near and connected to.

It’s easy to take the natural landscape for granted. We use it, participate with it, praise its beauty while we also manipulate it, manage it, reap its rewards, and then condemn it when it truly becomes a natural element again. Our ways of dealing with natural controversy, problems, and inconformity are as varied and vast as the architectural spaces we place next to them. Our first shelters as humans were able to be taken down and moved; mostly to follow food sources, but this was also because of human’s dependence on and interaction with the natural environment. Since then, our buildings have become less and less dependent on the natural world. Consequently, its interaction with it becomes a more and more dominant issue, it is no wonder that when the natural elements we’ve designed our cities and transportation around flex beyond the bounds we put on them, the worse and worse we feel about our interaction with it.
As the world continues to change, humans must learn to thoughtfully adapt to those changes. This project aims to naturally improve how New Orleans prepares for future floods. The proposal calls out for a bioswale system that spreads across the city’s arteries to reduce surge impact and naturally disperse water runoff. This living organism that adapts to changing climates is inspired by adopting the same principles as to how the Mississippi River created Louisiana’s Delta - dragging sediment from a huge swath of North America and delivering to Louisiana’s door.

As the bioswales spread across the city, they are anchored by public nodes at the river’s edge which are components to the revitalized riverfront master plan - A continuous green space that removes all barriers and showcases the river as it has played a major role to the development of the city’s unique identity. This six mile riverfront master plan utilizes architecture as a symbiotic lens that focuses on reconnecting the city back to the Mississippi River, which as a result of New Orleans history with floods has force the city to turn its back to it. The public nodes are influenced by their surrounding synergy which are individually representative of New Orleans unique identity: Mardi Gras, Cultural Heritage, Music, Arts and Culinary. My focus is concentrated on the Music node. It is here, where the Music Institute is located, a place where the academic program houses both the fabrication of instruments as well as learning to perform those instruments as a form of self-expression. The building then becomes the driver for connecting the city to the river as well as the contrasting neighboring districts through its architectural program.
Roughly 75% of the Netherlands lies at or below sea level, with the majority of the population living in these areas. With rising sea levels (an estimated 5 ft. by 2100 and 13 ft. by 2200) and increased precipitation and storm surges, building on water becomes a more pragmatic solution to rising sea levels and global warming. Currently the Netherlands are the leaders in water management, yet they will have to strengthen about 30% of their dikes in order to handle the estimated rise in water level. Along with the abundance of water, their fresh water supply is becoming threatened as the salt water inundates the country.

My goal for this project was to propose a preventative, future-focused solution to shift the current mode of development to address these future challenges. My proposal uses the MVRDV Almere 2030 project as starting point for my regional plan for the area. I’ve proposed a more organic structure of islands that focuses on view & water transport corridors, as well as 15 minute walkable/bikeable communities of islands. The plan consists of a spine of higher density mixed use with residential areas and recreational areas adjacent.

The building I’ve proposed is a light rail train terminal that connects Almere to Amsterdam via a subterranean track. The building structure is developed around a submerged platform for the train tunnel and a floating upper structure. By using a stationary structure paired with a floating structure, I was able to stabilize the project. These opposing structures also create many moments for the visitors to visually experience the rise in sea levels over time.
photovoltaic glass unit (pvgu)
A massive tornado struck Joplin, Missouri on May 22nd 2011: it destroyed 8,000 homes, leveled an area of 22 miles long by 3/4 of a mile wide, and changed people’s lives forever.

I traveled there and met many of those affected. I found that in response to the tragic loss, people created the bonds of a new community spirit: they reached out to each other and solved problems as a community rather than individually.

Unfortunately, this new community fabric is already splitting apart by the influence of the pervasive idea of separation and resulting protectiveness as people begin rebuilding with past attitudes and familiar patterns. However, “blank slates” caused by natural disasters such as these destroyed neighborhoods create the opportunity, if taken in time, to nurture and expand an interconnected, dynamic community, unknown to most. Thus, the need arises for a new model for living: a model which will ENLIVEN people’s spirits and life-joy over time. It encompasses architectural design, urban design, community-life concepts, and a grass-roots process of rebuilding life and community together.

This holistic community model allows individuals and a collective group to be creatively and actively involved in creating the structure, form, and fabric of the com-
munity.

In this model, the community grows organically through cooperative designing and building of the interior of the cast-concrete, community "hub": the ENLIVEN Community Center. Homes and other supportive public structures in the neighborhood follow as temporary, post-disaster housing fades out. The structural framework of the community center and surrounding neighborhood support consecutive stages of the community’s needs and phases, and provide tornado protection.

The first step of community development is the professionally-built concrete shell for the ENLIVEN Center. This shell is intended to also serve dually as a refuge during a possible future tornado and as the initial construction shops. Training capable individuals to physically rebuild begins with using these construction shops to build-in the interior floors, supports, and developing sections and components of the shell. Other people support the construction process and community well-being in other ways.

The ENLIVEN Center, the heart of the community, is intended for the upliftment of people’s spirits through its architecture and through the facilitation of human interaction and cooperation. Initially, it will serve all needed social, economic, and developmental functions until primary and higher education schools, health and wellness centers, and other public buildings are built around it. Eventually, ENLIVEN will serve as the cultural center, a learning center for this community’s unique model and history, and market.

The layout of the surrounding housing, built and expanded over time, is also designed toward tornado resistance through formation of protective courtyards in the center of each housing cluster and corresponding tornado shelters. These cooperative, community clusters will also foster richer community connections and involvement.

This new model of community is aimed at transforming a society based on fragmentation and lack of constructive involvement into a society in which people realize their greatest individual fulfillment through shaping the future with a group of people of common vision.
The Rebuild Action Center is a response to the mass debris created by tornadoes. The goal is to provide the victims of a tornado with useful materials and knowledge to rebuild, while also making use of the debris which is typically trucked to a landfill. When no disaster is present the building functions as a repository of materials from demolished buildings. These materials are intended to be stock piled for use in a future recovery effort, but can also be purchased by local contractors in which case the funds are deposited to a recovery fund as a catalyst to more efficient rebuilding. This building will function as a catalyst to more efficient rebuilding and the reuse of materials which would otherwise be sent to a landfill.
Resilient City examines how urban areas can improve their resiliency in event of a natural disaster. As our urban populations grow, there is an increased need for planning the regeneration of areas in event of a disaster. This can help to avoid loss of lives, economic recessions, and errors when rebuilding the urban fabric.

My thesis explores how disaster relief and rebuilding efforts could be improved by the strategic placing of urban relief centers. These would provide a functional community space that would transform into an effective relief and resource center during disaster and would become a space for community discussion on rebuilding topics.

The urban plan takes into consideration possible hazards within Portland in event of an earthquake, proposing where existing resources maybe strategically placed to enable a greater resiliency.

The buildings program is driven to stimulate conversations of urban sustainability and community growth as well as educate the public on disaster preparedness.
NE 2ND AVE
STEPED SEATING
NE COUCH ST
CANOPY SYSTEM
MLK BLVD
LAWN
BIOSWALE
AMPITHEATURE SPACE
TERRACED GARDEN SPACE
URBAN FARM
1. RAIN WATER HARVESTING
2. THERMAL MASS
3. NATURAL DAY LIGHTING
4. PASSIVE VENTILATION
5. PHOTOVOLTAIC EFTE
6. EFFICIENT STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
7. UNDERGROUND PARKING
8. SAFETY STORAGE SPACE
9. URBAN AGRICULTURE
10. STORM WATER GARDEN
11. GREEN ROOF SYSTEM
12. CISTERNs
URBAN VOID:
Rebuilding between three neighborhoods.

Erika Malpay
San Francisco, CA
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M. ARCH Option II

The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake prompted the city to remove many of its elevated highways. The removal of the Central Freeway through the Hayes Valley, Civic Center and Fillmore neighborhoods provided an opportunity to reconnect these neighborhoods. Unfortunately, since the removal of the elevated structure, many of the empty lots have been converted into parking lots and still function as a barrier. Little has been done to develop much of the freeway parcels, with the exception of Octavia Blvd and Patricia’s Green. Infilling the urban fabric and programming spaces back to the community will allow the area to continue healing itself. The addition of a series of pedestrian only alleyways will help seam the neighborhoods back together, further strengthening them for the future.
Catalyst Project: Rebuilding and Earthquake Preparedness Education Center

At the heart of the urban redesign is a rebuilding and education center. The center has two components: to gather and reuse building and construction materials; and a community education center. The educational component will focus around classes that will teach people basic construction techniques, how to use tools and how to retrofit and earthquake-proof their homes. Located along the pedestrian only alley, the rebuilding and education center will also have a live/work component to allow residents to engage even more in their communities. Providing this type of knowledge and amenities to the three communities will encourage a self-sustaining growth and will prepare the neighborhoods if future disasters should occur.
REKONSTWI SANT
(REBUILDING CENTER)
Haitian reconstruction through building trades education

Abraham N. Rodríguez
Petit-Goâve, Haiti
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M. ARCH Option II

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, a problem that has exponentially compounded by the 7.0 earthquake that struck the Island nation on January 12th 2010. While the eyes of the world are currently focused on Haiti, short-term donations of food, medicine, and transitional shelters will only serve as a band aid on the country’s problems. If Haiti is to move forward, it must be able to stand on its own without having to depend on the international community for aid and infrastructure.

When one addresses the damage done by the earthquake, it becomes clear this was a case of human failure along with natural disaster. The lack of safe building practices contributed greatly to the devastation suffered in Haiti. In contrast to the 7.0 quake in Haiti, the February 27th 2010 earthquake in Chile was a category 8.8, yet 300 times more people died in Haiti than in Chile. In order to address this pressing need for safe reconstruction, this project aims to become a model for Haitian Reconstruction through building trades education.

The program is a technical trade school, open for students 12 and up, where students can learn proper construction techniques that are then applied to the ongoing reconstruction efforts around Haiti. Students can come in to learn proper construction, receive drafting and 3D modelling training, and receive jobs leads on construction projects. There is also a communal component to the program, with a public library and counselling services put in place to replace the destroyed Petite Goave library and provide counselling for this distressed community. As such the center aims to not only become a catalyst for the regeneration of Petite Goave’s built environment, but also to provide healing for this distressed community. This creates a unique design problem, how can something that is effectively an ongoing construction site become a useful public amenity for a devastated community?

This project seeks to become a model for other Haitian small cities to adopt. The project is cited in Petite Goave, around 40 miles west of Port-au-Prince, in order to address reconstruction in quake affected areas that are not in the capital. By addressing the needs of smaller Haitian cities (many of whom are dealing not only with their own homeless, but also homeless refuges for Port-au-Prince) we can spur growth in these smaller cities and ease the devastating overcrowding in Port-au-Prince. If this path is successfully applied, Haiti can transition from being a country dominated by one metropolis, to a network of smaller self-sufficient cities.
site section

existing marketplace

lakou
builder's yard/
loading area

fabrication
floor

new park/greenbelt

ground floor plan

second floor plan

section

public courtyard “lakou”

possible pv panels

window + roof
openings promote
cross-ventilation

rain water
cystern

permeable
paving

metals
sectionecs section

metal roof
Dominican Republic

metal truss
United States

concrete
Haiti/USA

bamboo screens
Haiti

exploded axonometric + materials sourcing
Through the examination of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa, it seems that one of the most simple approaches to slowing this genocide would be to ensure that everyone in this area — from the urban city centers to the rural villages — is being educated about the methods of HIV prevention and its importance. Obviously, the issue of health, medicine and science are at the forefront of this conversation, but the treatment for HIV is extremely regimented, and incredibly expensive at this point in time, creating a situation that is not entirely accessible for most people in the world. In addition to the way that HIV is directly affecting the lives of the people in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is also drastically affecting the social systems of this place such as economy, production, education, and child-care. HIV/AIDS is something that is taking a toll on every aspect of life for these people, and that is why I have chosen this as the topic for my project on ‘Regenerative Design.’

This project explores the ideas of regenerative design by implementing the tent structure, an archetype in almost every native culture throughout history, and exploring it in a new way using contemporary processes that contribute to the catalyzation of local industry as well as the spread of education. The goal is that by introducing a new product, the local economy will be re-generated and through the spread of awareness and prevention methods, the morale and well-being of the people themselves will also be re-generated.

The Question (revised): What is the responsibility of architecture in relation to the HIV epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa?

Answer: To give folks a roof over their head and a place to learn, heal, and progress.

The important thing to remember here is that architecture is not medicine, it cannot cure or treat, but it is able to shelter, facilitate and provide nonetheless. In order to prevent the further spread of this epidemic, it is imperative to instead spread knowledge of the virus, and the ways in which it can be prevented.

The Question (revised): How can architecture help to spread knowledge to rural areas that are otherwise without basic needs?

Answer: Mobile, pre-fabricated buildings that provide a safe, welcoming setting for such matters to be discussed.

In this part of the world, HIV affects everyone and every aspect of every day life. GDPs have drastically decreased over the last decade due to a severe depletion of the workforce caused by AIDS. Most of these countries did not have a lot of national exports to begin with.

Additionally, the virus is leaving a lot of children orphaned, wives widowed, and heads of household in charge of an ever-increasing number of dependents.

The Question (revised): How can the production of pre-fabricated architecture contribute to the problems with economy and education?

Answer: By producing something innovative that takes advantage of the area’s existing available resources and knowledge base that can be taught, learned and executed all at once.
**EDIBLE CITY:** a productive urban landscape and food logistics hub

Jack Thomas  
Dujiangyan, Sichuan, China  
Regenerative Design Studio 2012  
Dr. Hajo Neis  
B.Arch

China’s western province of Sichuan, rocked by the devastating Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, is undergoing large scale transformation, giving testimony to China’s speedy, often “devil-may-care” attitude regarding urban and rural development. Dujiangyan, neighbor to Sichuan’s largest city of Chengdu, is a city with a stunning landscape which, despite centuries of urban growth, has continued to seep into the urban fabric. This project is an attempt to help stabilize a rapidly changing landscape through blurring the lines between urban and rural, both physically and culturally. In sum, Edible City is about food security, regeneration, urban agriculture, and strengthening a Chinese community through food.

food hub & market hall  
plaza  
nan bridge  
min river  
dujiangyan weir rec. area  
phase one mixed use  
phase two mixed use  
sichuan university research farm  
(existing) river promenade  
(existing) residential  
(existing) commercial
1. market hall
2. event room
3. classroom
4. meeting room
5. WC
6. lobby
7. food processing/sorting
8. loading
9. storage
10. lab
11. office
12. janitorial
13. mechanical
14. terrace
Sea turtles once navigated throughout the world’s oceans in huge numbers. But in the past 100 years, human demand for turtle meat, eggs, skin and colorful shells have reduced their populations. Destruction of feeding and nesting habitats and pollution of the world’s oceans are all taking a serious toll on remaining sea turtle populations. Many breeding populations have already become extinct, and some surviving species are being threatened to extinction. Sadly, only an estimated one in 1 to 1,000 will survive to adulthood. The natural obstacles faced by young and adult sea turtles are staggering, but it is the increasing problems caused by humans that are threatening their future survival.
THE WAR EXPERIENCE
RECOVERY PROJECT

Jodi Hanson
Arden Hills, Minnesota
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M.Arch Option II

The project is a veteran’s re-acclimation and healing center on a former ammunitions plant in Arden Hills, Minnesota, about 10 min north of Minneapolis. Through the interaction of the veterans and the land, the healing processes of each become mutually beneficial. As time passes and nature takes back the land, veterans witness the process of reclamation and renewal as they go through their own process of healing. The architecture is the medium through which the veterans experience this story of healing, as well as the place where they share their own stories.

This program is a response to a lack of holistic healing facilities for veterans. VA hospitals are sufficient for medical needs, but the scars of combat are more than physical. This facility includes physical therapy, social programs, employment assistance, and mental and relational counsel. It is a place for veterans living in the Twin Cities metro area to come and be in community with other veterans and to participate in a larger project together; healing in the broadest sense. The process of healing personally, relationally and physically becomes a network for support and a common goal for those who spend time here.
ARCHITECTURE OF POTENTIAL
Regenerating Social and Physical Structures by Courtyard Building Adaptive Reuse - A Creative Business Incubator and Resource Center

Arpad Takacs
Project Location: Budapest, Hungary
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M. Arch Option II

Throughout its rich history Hungary has seen its share of ups and downs in economic and social conditions due to wars and political turmoil leading to an increasingly dire situation for a 21st Century generation. Mounting national debt, an uncertain economic climate, disappearing industries, and political divisions cripple meaningful growth and development.

A “bottom-up” approach of entrepreneurially spirited citizenry is necessary to foster ideas, create opportunities, and develop meaningful solutions for a 21st Century Hungary lead by a generation of innovative creatives open to communication, collaboration, and fundamental change in order to succeed in a globally connected society.

The topic of regenerative design in Budapest’s decaying center is especially relevant as buildings within the VI. and VII. Districts of the city contain buildings at a critical stage of their life needing major structural rehabilitation work and/or historic renovation. Otherwise they face the alternative of becoming structurally unsafe for human use. Other alternatives exists however, with some innovative and creative solutions in the form of adaptive reuse and rehab work.

The studio design work focuses on such alternatives on multiple scales. It attempts to interject and introduce a new way of looking at rehab, renovation, and adaptive reuse design work within the contemporary context of Budapest courtyard buildings and the city as a whole.
ARCHITECTURE AS A PROSTHETIC
Medical research facility and treatment center

Maja Cunningham
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Dr. Hajo Neis
M.Arch Option III

Following a civil war and a 1000 day siege, Sarajevo was left a wounded and battered body in an urban wasteland.

By injecting a building at the crossroads of old and new, this project seeks to address the missing components by introducing a new regenerative entity, a prosthetic in an urban landscape.

A medical research facility and treatment center of Sarajevo will address the corporal suffering of the war victims and mine casualties, as well as architectural disaster of urbicide.
The main goal of SoundBridge is to offset the suppression of American Sign Language, and instead celebrate this incredible language and the Deaf people who use it. SoundBridge also aims to bring together through sound and music manipulation two disconnected communities in Washington, DC; the Deaf associated with Gallaudet University, and the diverse community that surrounds it to the south including the H St corridor.

This collaboration and newly-formed sense of community creates a sustainable community and future for the residents and the Deaf.

The aim is to create merging paths at the urban and building scale. You can see the overlay of urban paths and the language dispersion district created around Gallaudet, and the ‘Converging Paths’ diagram represents specific moments in each demographic’s sensory experience; beginning apart, working towards each other, and finally converging. Three of these experiences are represented on the next page.

Using an existing building was a goal of mine, and represented a significant challenge. The exploded axon at the far right shows what was removed, replaced, and new.
Deaf Individual
Beginning the Path

Hearing Individual
Beginning the Path

Cross-cultural
Individual

n-s section looking east showing multiple activities and users over a typical weekday.

1/64” = 1'-0”

adaptive re-use axon
Sustained Teaching and Regenerative Transitions

Dan Scofield
Cincinnati, Ohio
Regenerative Design Studio 2012
Prof. Dr. Hajo Neis
M. Arch. Option II

[Transitional Self-Help]
A model in which people are provided with the tools for self-sufficiency, transitional self-help aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to take control in their own setting. On the verge of being forced from their home, this project attempts to anchor long-time residents of Over-the-Rhine in their neighborhood.

Through recent development efforts, a new demographic has made its way into OTR: a great boost economically, but inadvertently tending towards gentrification and resident displacement. A lack of communication and understanding between this new demographic and the long-time residents has led to distrust and the rise of false perceptions between the groups. Thus, this project aims to account for both sides, the residents who have called this place home and the residents who can ensure continued development and a valuable future for Over-the-Rhine. By recognizing the strength inherent in their differences, these two groups can work together for the neighborhood they love, forging a community united in diversity. This is a new start for OTR, a step away from its troubled history, and a chance for two populations to come together as one community. This project, for both groups, is an introduction to their own context.

Beginning with the design & implementation of my building design, the overall urban plan is meant to expand from this central location out into the neighborhood. The initial design provides a central anchor while the future development is meant to expand the presence in the neighborhood while continuing a cycle of learning and teaching, expanding vocational programs as well as commercial sites and public interaction.

“The best way to learn is to teach.”
Scupper to combo Vegetation Screen and Downspout @ Parapet

Water collection for reuse & filtration on site

Native Vegetation
Flowering Vines & Trees
-Early to bloom, good fall color, attractive winter form (all seasons)

[Residential]
Preservation, Re-use, and New Construction
Long-Term Transitional Housing
2-4 Year Lease
Agree to work
Enroll in Education
Co-housing
type apartments

[Education]
Re-use and New Construction
Teaching Kitchen
Food Service
Vocational Trade School
Property Management
Administrative & Professional Support
Business Management
Financial Services
General Education
General Education Programs
Health Clinic and Administration
Counseling & Dependency Services

[Commercial & Retail]
New Construction
Retail Storefront
Short-term lease for small start-ups
and business development
Bicycle Co-op
Publicly Leasable Office Space Above

[section @ rear entry]