

Collaborative Design Studio Syllabus



In this course students engage in a collaborative and interactive process of designing a full scale community project. This class is a great fit for people interested in community development, change making, and collaborative design.

Students will meet with the non-profit or community client, establish the program, work within a budget, propose and develop the design all in just 3 days.

Students are given the creative freedom to design a project that meets the unique needs of their client. As a result, this course often produces unique and whimsical structures - a building style that Yestermorrow is known for.

At the end of the course, students will know how to

- facilitate and participate in a consensus based design process
- present projects ideas to a client
- sketch and model projects

This course is open to architects and builders seeking to earn continuing education credit, as well as to students, non-professionals, and anyone with enthusiasm about design/build and giving back to the public realm. Previous design experience is not required.

In the 2023 course, we will be designing a bus stop as part of a collaboration with [AARP VT](#) and [VTrans](#). The designs produced in this course will be built by the Design/Build Intensive starting the Monday after this course ends. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for both courses. [Check out our 2021 project!](#)

Past projects have included public playground structures, village green bandshells, park pavilions, compost privies, foot bridges, trail shelters, writers' retreats and school bus stop shelters.

Recommended readings

Connell, John. *Homing Instinct*

Piedmont-Palladino, Susan et al. *Devil's Workshop: 25 years of Jersey Devil Architecture*

Dean, Andrea Oppenheimer. *Rural Studio: Samuel Mockbee and an Architecture of Decency*

Materials to Bring

- Notebook and something to write with

Tentative Course Schedule

Day 1

- Meet with client and relevant community members to discuss program and budget
- initial design discussion
- Discussion of consensus process, followed by the creation of decision procedures for the class

Day 2

- formal design charrette
- introduction to model-making
- building design consensus

Day 3

- presentation of design to client
- further detailed design work
- possible evening lecture by guest speaker
- Creation of construction drawings