TULANE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
DSGN 3200/7200_Spring 2017
Comprehensive Design Studio

The studio brief is one of six studios offered to fulfill the requirements for a comprehensive design semester. Sites, program, and building typology are unique to each studio, providing students with a range of projects to consider. Note that the overall schedule with shared lectures and deadlines, along with the studio outcomes and deliverables are coordinated. Each studio is expected to satisfy the NAAB Student Performance Criteria listed in the common studio syllabus.

MIND THE GAP: Dialogues between Small Towns and Big Cities
Jason Harrell, AIA

SITE: Gulfport-Biloxi, Mississippi
CONTEXT: Small Town
BUILDING TYPE: Industrial-Institutional 75,000 - 100,000 SF

AGENDA
The last 20 years have seen great gains in large urban areas, yet small towns and rural areas have lost jobs and resources. This has sparked a growing divide in the nation between cities and rural areas, especially given the lack of thoughtful dialogue within the media. In this studio, students will define the positive attributes of a small town and design ways to enhance those qualities in an effort to make resilient communities. This studio seeks to explore how we, as designers, can bridge the gap between cities and small towns through thoughtful development and discourse. How can new industries/institutions bring about a new architecture that relates to the environment and history while attracting new talent and resources to the region?

Gulfport is the 2nd largest city in the state of Mississippi, with an active port and good proximity to New Orleans. The Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans intertwined history means the two areas share many of the same traditions, architecture, food, and social culture. In the age of the city movement, how does New Orleans’s current growth inform Gulfport’s? Are there ways to make small towns incubators for new ideas and businesses? Students will examine developments along the Gulf Coast designed by nationally recognized Architects; Gehry Partners Ohr-Okeefe Museum, SHoP’s Delisle Community Center, H3 Hardy Collaboration Seafood Museum – exploring how effectively these projects integrate contemporary building technology and regional vernacular while solving for a shifting coastal environment.

In addition to regional case studies, the students will examine national and international precedent for industrial and institutional buildings that looks to engage and educate the community, including Ennead’s Newtown Wastewater Treatment Plant, Annabelle Selldorf’s Sunset Park Materials Recycling Center, BIG’s Amager Resource Center, etc.

SITE VISIT – PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENT
The students will take a field trip to Gulfport at the beginning of the semester to examine the site as well as surrounding landmarks. After initial site analysis the students will create a program on the site that includes an industrial and/or institutional component that engages the community. This program should address educational, environmental and public health concerns. The studio will also meet with local officials and real estate professionals in the initial phase to help bring depth into the programmatic development of the project.