Introduction:
This studio aims to create innovative designers who understand the basics of building and who know how to engage, collaborate, and execute projects with a social interest. This option studio is an opportunity for you to explore detailing, fabrication, material qualities, technologies, and public interest design. Currently there is a large majority of the population who have no access to design services. By partnering with a local non-profit organization this course (and the larger body of work of the TCC) aims to address the needs of an underserved population; bringing quality design work to the greater New Orleans community while also training future architects to be inspired, socially conscious, and technically competent designers.

Spring 2016 engage|design|build project: Community Book Center, rethinking the community hub
The project’s focus will be a bookstore which has long served as a community gathering space in the 7th ward. For over 30 years, Community Book Center (CBC) has served as a neighborhood space in service to the community by hosting events and conversations in their storefront, alongside the sale of books and art. Tulane City Center’s work with the CBC addresses two issues: how do we redefine the role of a neighborhood bookstore in the digital age, and how do we preserve the specific cultural history of commercial spaces under the threat of gentrification? Tulane City Center’s approach to design is characterized by deep engagement. Our design/build team will be working to make cultural history spatial in a way that engages the community and enriches the venue’s programming as we build out the community space.

Course Objectives:
Design Build studios provide the opportunity to thoroughly research and understand materials, detailing, and fabrication options through the design and construction of a project in the New Orleans community. The studio will stress quality of craft and care in execution. It will expose students to the coordination of construction at varying scales and the constraints of a budget. Students will learn how to collaborate as a team on a single built project that demonstrates a commitment to design excellence. Additionally, as a Tulane City Center studio this course serves as an introduction to public interest design and engagement with community partners will be central to the design process.

Additional Information:
This is a design build studio. In one semester students will design and fully fabricate a project.
The studio will be conducted from the Baronne Street Tulane City Center Studio/Shop (1725 Baronne Street).
This will be a making-intensive studio; however, no previous construction experience is required.
Studio Participants are required to enroll in the companion fabrication seminar: ATCS 4225/6225 Advanced Technical Fabrication (W 9-12).
Please contact me with questions or schedule conflicts: etaylor2@tulane.edu.