LA 4/539  Landscape Architecture Design and Process Studio: A Place on the River - Riparian Residential Design on the McKenzie
Department of Landscape Architecture University of Oregon
Hulse
Spring 2016

Syllabus

The vast majority of metropolitan areas in the developed world depend on a nearby water body as the source for their population’s drinking water. Eugene is no different. The McKenzie River is the sole source of drinking water for nearly 200,000 people. In 2001, the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) established a Water Source Protection Program to evaluate and mitigate risks to water quality in the McKenzie watershed. As part of its Source Water Protection Program, EWEB established in 2012 the Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP) as a way to reward good stewards of land that drains to the McKenzie River. The goal of the Voluntary Incentive Program is to maintain water quality through the protection of intact and healthy riparian areas along the McKenzie River.

This studio will create residential site designs for the homes and property of 4 homeowners who have agreed to help EWEB pilot test this component of the VIP, in which EWEB proposes to work with and reward interested landowners who protect and enhance native riparian vegetation through site design and land management practices that protect the McKenzie River. Each student in the studio will gain facility with residential design by working with one of these clients to propose illustrative plans, sections and details for their property that both a) achieve the owner’s vision for their home and b) are compatible with the VIP and EWEB’s interests. To those ends, the goal of this studio is to explore, create and present these visions to your client and EWEB representatives. To accomplish this, we will take on a variety of tasks the purposes of which are to:

1) Gain a summary understanding of the historical, cultural, ecological and physical complexities of the McKenzie River and its watershed, with special focus on the riparian zones;

2) Grow in your ability to work with a specific client, understand their needs and desires, and accommodate both through your design proposals;

3) Iteratively develop an increasingly sophisticated set of plans, sections, details and related images for the chosen residence, with special focus on responsiveness to both client needs and VIP intentions.
Educational Goals
As a Spring term 4/539 Landscape Architecture Process and Design class, this studio's role in the curriculum is to help each student further their abilities to grasp the essence of a landscape opportunity, propose conceptual strategies at both coarse and fine scales for the opportunity’s resolution, and to then begin gaining facility with communicating, through more detailed graphic and verbal explorations and client interactions, how some small piece of the whole place would be formed to address the opportunity.

This is a studio about connections of many kinds. The nature of the riparian zone and its relations with the McKenzie River and surrounding areas are fundamentally concerned with making landscape connections of cultural, ecological and physical types, particularly in those areas were sustained human presence is high. The educational and pedagogic goals for Spring 4/539 have to do primarily with helping each student get better at connecting analytic, conceptual, technical, and synthetic abilities together in the meeting of landscape needs. The studio will attempt to help you make your own (environ)mental connections between riparian-scale processes, understandings of client wants and needs, understandings of VIP programmatic wants and needs, residential site design understandings, and design communication and visualization understandings.

Course Objectives
At the conclusion of the course students will be more familiar with how to clearly communicate, both graphically and verbally, the realization in form and material of their ideas for the chosen residence. In addition, the students will be familiar with the process by which this communication comes about, including further understanding of:

- the role of clear communication with clients in residential scale design;
- the larger environmental processes influencing design projects in the riparian zone of a river like the McKenzie;
- the processes of evolving your design thinking from conceptual to preliminary schematic to illustrative designs.

Course Techniques
The studio will make use of student projects, field trips, readings/discussions, client meetings and student presentations & reviews to explore the material outlined above.

Student Expectations and Evaluation
The studio will operate along conventional lines, working generally as a social group with each individual student developing their own individual response to the problems posed. There will, however, be instances during the studio when successful group efforts will be both appropriate and expected. All students are expected to attend all studio meetings, MWF 1-5 barring unusual or emergency circumstances. Like all landscape architecture studios, grading is P/NP only. All students are expected to adequately prepare for and participate in both mid-term and final reviews, and to join an instructor in a 1/2 hour exit interview at the conclusion of the term. **Note required fieldtrip Saturday April 2. Also, do not plan to depart Eugene prior to Fri June 10 so you can successfully complete the required Exit Interview. Failure to do so will result in an “Incomplete” grade.**

Required Texts
Two documents will be required for the studio. One is hard copy and must be purchased, the second is free and will be made available in digital form.


Optional Texts

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabrv@uoregon.edu
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Required Readings

Week 1
3/28:
Institute for Natural Resources. 2012. EWEB’s Vision: Payments for ecosystem services through a Voluntary Incentives Program. Available online at http://www.eweb.org/sourceprotection/vip
And 4/1: Booth and Hiss. 2012. Residential Landscape Architecture; Ch. 5 Meeting the Clients pp 132-153

Week 2
4/8: Booth and Hiss. 2012. Residential Landscape Architecture; Ch. 4 Design Process Overview pp 112-131

Week 3
4/15: Booth and Hiss. 2012. Residential Landscape Architecture; Ch. 8 Functional Diagrams pp 208-235

Week 4
4/22: Booth and Hiss. 2012. Residential Landscape Architecture; Ch. 11 Spatial Composition pp 319-388

Week 5
Mid-Term Review 4/29

Week 6
5/6: Booth and Hiss. 2012. Residential Landscape Architecture; Ch. 12 Material Composition and Master Plan pp 389-445

Week 7
Prep for final review

Week 8
Prep for final review

Week 9
Prep for final review
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### Intro/Field Trip
- **M**: 3/28 studio meets 3:00 – 5 p.m. studio intro-its structure and role, desk lottery; assign Prob. 1., Booth Ch. 5 & VIP reading;  
  **W**: 3/30 meet with Karl Morgenstern from EWEB re Voluntary Incentive Program;  
  **F**: 4/1 Discuss plans for Field Trip; Discuss Prob. 1A & Booth Ch. 5 (Meeting the Clients);

**Saturday April 2 to visit the McKenzie River valley. Depart Lawr Hall 10 a.m., return 6 p.m.**

#### Getting to know the place and the people
- **M**: 4/4 Teams W and X meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio Assign Booth Ch. 4  
- **W**: 4/6 Teams Y and Z meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio  
- **F**: 4/8 Share lessons of client meetings  
  **NOTE:** Fieldtrip all day Saturday April 2 to visit the McKenzie River valley. Depart Lawr Hall 10 a.m., return 6 p.m.

### Base maps and Draft Site Plans with preliminary plant list
- **M**: 4/11 work in studio  
  **W**: 4/13 work in studio  
  **F**: 4/15 first draft Diagrams and Site Plan due; work in studio

#### Getting to know the place and the people
- **M**: 4/4 Teams W and X meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio Assign Booth Ch. 4  
- **W**: 4/6 Teams Y and Z meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio

### Detailed focal area site design
- **M**: 5/2 Mid-term debrief Assign Prob. 2  
- **W**: 5/4 work in studio on revisions to diagrams and site plans  
- **F**: 5/6 work in studio  
  **NOTE:** Fieldtrip all day Saturday April 2 to visit the McKenzie River valley. Depart Lawr Hall 10 a.m., return 6 p.m.

#### Getting to know the place and the people
- **M**: 4/4 Teams W and X meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio Assign Booth Ch. 4  
- **W**: 4/6 Teams Y and Z meet with landowners at EWEB HQ 1:30-3 p.m. All others in studio

### Final Review Preparation
- **M**: 5/16 Pin Up Review of revised site plan  
- **W**: 5/18 Presentation Rehearsals  
- **F**: 5/20 Presentation Rehearsals

### Reviews
- **M**: 5/30  
  **W**: 6/1 All work due 4 p.m. day prior to Final Review  
  **F**: 6/3 Required Exit Interviews

### Exams
- **M**: 6/6 Required Exit Interviews  
- **W**: 6/8 Required Exit Interviews  
- **F**: 6/10 Required Exit Interviews