International Living Futures Institute’s (IFLI) First Hill Living Community Challenge for conservation and recreation uses. This studio developed a series of long-range planning tools to support the vision of the First Hill Cleaning Works (2017). Instructor: Liz Browning.

Investigating new urban trends in biodiversity planning. Biodiversity loss is one of the most pressing issues facing our planet. This studio examined how urban design can support biodiversity and the needs of local communities. Students were challenged to activate the Seattle Waterfront during the cold, dark, and wet winter months of 2017. Working with the Office of the Waterfront and Friends of Waterfront Seattle, students designed a series of interventions that could be implemented along the Seattle waterfront. Design Thinking and Cultivating Creativity. Students were inspired by the work of environmental artist sculptor Peter Lundberg, who uses reclaimed materials and found objects to create large-scale sculptures. The studio partnered with the Tilth Alliance to design ‘MakerScape’ interventions that would be used by people to create their own artwork using reclaimed materials.

Wayne Golf Course is 86 acres in Bothell, Washington. Bisected by the I-5 corridor between downtown and Northgate. Students examined how this site could be used to promote both recreation and conservation. They explored the potential for creating a wildlife corridor that would connect to the surrounding natural areas and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Design Action for Environmental Health in Ipiales, Amazon Peru and Iquitos, Peru. Students were engaged in a design research project that explored the impact of urban migration, many from indigenous villages in the jungle. Displaced from their homes and forced to create new homes in the city, often in harsh conditions, students were asked to design low-cost, sustainable, and culturally rooted interventions. Displacement and Social Justice. Students were asked to design interventions that could help mitigate the social and environmental impact of urban migration. This project served as an example of point-of-use infrastructure as an alternative to public transportation.

Fog Water Farms is a landscape architecture, urban design, and education program led by Nancy Rottle and Jim Nicholls. Touring mostly by bicycle, the studio undertook a design/build project in Pongro Senchey, a low-income, informal urban community on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The students worked with local community members to design and build a garden that would provide both food and a space for social interaction. The garden was completed in June 2016. Design/Build Capstone Studio (Spring 2017). Instructor: Joanne Parcell & Kool Kool (Architects).

La Luna Verde is an environmental restoration and public greenspace project at Sacratif, Dominican Republic. The project’s goal is to create a vibrant community space that promotes environmental awareness and education. Students were asked to design a series of interventions that would be used by the local community to engage with nature and learn about sustainability. The garden was completed in June 2016. Design/Build Capstone Studio (Spring 2017). Instructor: Joanne Parcell & Kool Kool (Architects).

Tacoma Prairie Line Trail: The Intersection of Art and Landscape. From community makerspaces to social enterprises, these cases provide valuable insights into the role of art in reframing place and experience: Messy Urbanism: A team of UW students produced the first issue of a student publication SOW. The program is based on the premise that urban design is not a passive task, but rather a creative process that involves collaboration and negotiation between different stakeholders. Rather than a passive task, the students were asked to draw and write postcards about their experiences working on the project. The postcards were used as a means of communicating with the public and raising awareness about the importance of urban design.

In an effort to promote water-sensitive urban design and planning, the City of Boston – Living with Water Competition: Semi-Finalist. This competition sought to identify innovative and creative solutions to the challenges of water management in urban environments. Students were asked to design a water-sensitive urban design project that could be implemented in the City of Boston. The projects were evaluated based on their potential to reduce stormwater runoff, protect water quality, and enhance public space.

From Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street to demonstrations in Greece and Spain, the world has witnessed a surge of popular resistance movements against neoliberal practices that have impacted communities around the world. Students were asked to design interventions that could be used to support these movements and help citizens take control of their communities. The project concludes with an interactive exhibition and a final Strategy report. (ASLA Honor and WASLA Merit Awards)."