

LARC 502 / 598 A: Environmental Design for Global Health

Design Activism to Address Human + Ecological Health in the Urbanizing Amazon Rainforest

Iquitos, Peru

Leann Andrews

Office hours: M 12-1:00, W 10-11:00; Gould Hall 402

*note you can sign up for office hours here: <http://larch.be.washington.edu/wp/people/office-hours/>

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An experimental interdisciplinary studio-seminar for graduate students in landscape design, human health and environmental science related disciplines

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Iquitos, a city in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest with over a half million documented residents has recently experienced **rapid urban migration**, many from indigenous villages in the jungle. Displaced from highly lush and intact ecosystems of their 'home' landscapes, migrants are forced to create a new home in the dense city, often building out on the water in **floating slum communities**. Impoverished circumstances and poor environmental conditions in these neglected communities often results in highly prevalent chronic conditions, vector borne diseases, diarrheal diseases and poor mental health and wellbeing due to the lack of safe water, inadequate sanitation, insufficient access to nutritious food and public greenspaces, disrupted social and ecological systems, precarious structures and exposure to severe storms and flooding, all exacerbated by climate change.

This studio not only addresses conditions specific to Iquitos, but it also examines design challenges faced by millions around the world— an estimated 863 million people or 33% of the urban population in low and middle income countries live in slums (UN-Habitat, 2014), 40% of the world's population lives in tropical areas (Tropical Data Hub, 2015) and over 34 million people live in the Amazon Rainforest (WWF, 2015). Students will design for a real community, and design ideas will influence built work anticipated to be completed Summer/Fall 2016. Using **evidence-based-design techniques** and **interdisciplinary** research across global health, public health, environmental health, ecology, environmental psychology, entomology and other fields, students will examine the **intertwined relationship between human and ecological health**, design **low-cost, sustainable and culturally mindful** landscape interventions, and explore the potentials of landscape architecture as preventive medicine, ecological restoration and personal to global resilience.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To examine the ***intertwined relationship between human and ecological health***, and explore how design of our landscapes could be used to improve both simultaneously
- To think about design as situated next to, within, and across other disciplines including the health and natural sciences fields and learn how to ***communicate and collaborate across disciplines***
- To create design solutions for impoverished communities using ***low-cost, sustainable and culturally acceptable*** resources to create a high impact on human and ecological health
- To learn how to implement ***evidence-based design*** and research techniques and critically think about ***landscape performance***
- To become aware of issues and opportunities in ***tropical rainforests, rapidly expanding cities, and informal urban communities***
- To practice working between ***scales***, using both community-scale site designs and everyday-life-scale design prototypes to inform each other
- To question and explore ***ethical frameworks*** in global work and formulate personal stances and approaches to design
- Continue developing skills in graphic representation, critical analysis, communication, diagramming, shop work etc.

CLASS STRUCTURE

LARC 502 design students taking the studio will meet M-W-F 1:30-5:20 for lectures, presentations, discussions, field trips, working time and desk critiques. LARC 598 “expert consultant” students taking the seminar are only required to attend M-W 1:30-3:30, though are welcome to attend any part of the full class as interested or to ease group work coordination. Students are expected to be present for all class meetings. Should a circumstance arrive that prohibits a student from attending class, it is the responsibility of the student to email the instructor. Students will work both individually and in collaborative groups, pending student feedback.

READINGS, RESOURCES and COURSE SHARE SPACE

There are no required books for this class. All assigned readings will be distributed in digital format. All resources needed for the class will be available on:

Canvas <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1023640>

(for readings, calendar, assignment sheets, announcements, lecture powerpoints)

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.com/iuciuwstaff/>

(for compiling articles, images, design ideas, case studies etc)

login: IUCI.UW.Staff@gmail.com pwd: design4health

Google Drive <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3Jn2NK3BVppUnlCcG9vLWs5bVvk&usp=sharing>

(for accessing site maps, photos, videos and to assist group coordination)

Note: We recommend using your UW email as you each have 6 TB! of storage in your UW Google Drive

Students are expected to contribute to the resources throughout the quarter.

STUDIO EVALUATION (C/NC)

Evaluation will be from guest reviewers, peers, and the instructor throughout the quarter, with written comments provided at the end of the term. Student feedback throughout the quarter is highly encouraged.

The anticipated exercises for the quarter, subject to change with student input as the quarter progresses:

Warm Up Exercise // Lexicalization

Exercise 1 // Place Void Analysis: Dissecting Human and Ecological Health

Exercise 2 // Place Based Analysis: Contextual Exploration of Iquitos

Exercise 3 // Life Scale Prototype Designs

Exercise 4 // Community Scale Site Designs

Week 1: Identifying the Problem through Multi-Disciplinary Analysis

M	Jan 4	Introductions, Warm Up Exercise
W	Jan 6	Warm Up Exercise Due, Exercise 1 Assigned ; Lecture: Peter Rabinowitz // Center for One Health
F	Jan 8	In-class work day

Week 2:

M	Jan 11	In-class work day
W	Jan 13	Exercise 1 Due (digital presentation), Exercise 2 Assigned
F	Jan 15	In-class work day, Guest Desk Critiques: Coco Alarcon // Informal Urban Communities Initiative

Week 3:

M	Jan 18	Holiday (MLK Day), no class
W	Jan 20	Exercise 2 Due, Exercise 3 Assigned ; Guests: Jose 'Pepe' Carlos + Alfredo Salazar // Iquitos
F	Jan 22	Guest desk critiques / in-class work day (Leann out for On Sustainability Conference) Lecture: Coco Alarcon // Evidence in Landscape Architecture

Week 4:

M	Jan 25	Lecture: Kathy Wolf // Green Cities Good Health
W	Jan 27	In class work day, Tea Talk 430-5:30 pm (Paul Crane: Sustainable Rosengard, Malmo, Sweden)
F	Jan 29	In class work day, Fabrication Labs open during class time

Week 5:

M	Feb 1	In class work day, Fabrication Labs open during class time
W	Feb 3	Field Trip: Seattle Floating Homes and House Boats
F	Feb 5	In class work day, Fabrication Labs open during class time

Week 6:

M	Feb 8	In class work day, Fabrication Labs open during class time
W	Feb 10	Exercise 3 Due / Midterm Review, Exercise 4 Assigned
F	Feb 12	In-class work day

Week 7:

M	Feb 15	Holiday (President's Day), no class
W	Feb 17	Guest Lecture: Ursula Valdez // Centro de Educacion, Ciencia y Conservacion Tambopata Panel on Claverito // Chih-Ping Chen, Coco Alarcon; Tea Talk 430-5:30 pm (Jake Woland)
F	Feb 19	In-class work day

Week 8:

M	Feb 22	In-class work day
W	Feb 24	Progress pin ups, In-class work day
F	Feb 26	In-class work day
S	Feb 27	Field Trip: UW Greenhouse tour and tropical medicinal plants // Shawn Behling

Week 9:

M	Feb 29	(Bonus day!) In-class work day
W	Mar 2	Progress pin ups, in-class work day
F	Mar 4	In-class work day

Week 10:

M	Mar 7	In-class work day
W	Mar 9	Exercise 4 Due / Final Review
F	Mar 11	Wrap ups + Reflections, Finalize Magazine Pages

Week 11: UW Final Exam Week

No Final