This studio will address sustainable urbanism, inclusive neighborhood design and community-supporting architecture in an era of climatic, demographic and technological disruption. As structural inequalities, ecological degradation, and ongoing crises push people farther apart, design at all scales can be leveraged to repair a damaged urban fabric, address persisting inequities, soften transitions, and bring communities back together.

In pursuit of a design idea that contributes to individual delight and collective resilience, this studio will develop a master plan for a new mixed-income neighborhood on a large, previously developed urban site. Within this redevelopment master plan, a new community cultural center or children’s museum will be sited among affordable, workforce and market-rate housing.

Students will work from the urban design scale to the detailed development of a single building. Master plans will be completed in teams; building designs will be completed individually unless otherwise discussed. For building designs, students will have the option of developing a museum/center design, a mixed-income housing design, or both programs in a single structure.

The fall term will be focused on case study research, thesis development, programming and site selection. Discussions and readings will address sustainable urban design, equitable development, placemaking, and climate adaptation and resilience. Case studies will be completed independently or working in teams of two. Students will choose between two previously developed urban sites by the end of the fall term.

In winter term, students will work in teams to study alternatives and develop a district-scale master plan for their selected site. Each team will develop an urban design framework including the general redevelopment program, key buildings or sites, and public realm design concept. The final review will include an urban design proposal, and preliminary building siting and design concepts.

Spring term will focus intensively on the development of a comprehensive building design. Weekly studies and in-studio charrettes will guide students through the design process. Emphasis will be placed on extending passive strategies from the urban scale to the building scale. By the conclusion of spring term, students will have developed a neighborhood master plan and a comprehensive building design proposal.

This studio will be highly structured, collaborative, energetic and challenging. Every week will include individual project desk crits with every student and most weeks will include a full-studio review. Weekly prompts will push students to articulate design ideas, complete iterations, and explore media.