



Urban Design Competition, Taylor Yard, Los Angeles by UO Students: Daniel Stettler and Ron Baerg, Advisor: Jim Tice

**Urban Design for Glenwood: A Waterfront Community**

Winter Term 2019

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Open to Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Historic Preservation and Planning Students  
 Arch 484 CRN: 21200; Arch 584 CRN: 21290  
 6 credits  
 M W F 1:00 to 4:50 PM

**Goals**

This studio will center on Urban Design—the physical and spatial structure of communities. Our specific focus is one of the most underdeveloped but strategically located communities on the Willamette River: Glenwood, OR. The studio is intended as an exploration of urban design ideas for how this community can realize its unique potential through the intelligent design of:

- A. buildings (housing, commercial, work, institutional)
- B. defined open space (streets, squares, parks)
- C. transportation systems (mass transit, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians)

The goal is to provide a compelling vision for the community of Glenwood for the next 50 years that both anticipates and guides development in such a way that this urban center along with its neighborhoods, will respond to the natural setting and become a vibrant, livable—and walkable—community with a strong visible

identity that builds on its unique culture and place within the broader landscape and cities and towns of Oregon.

### **Problem Statement**

Glenwood is an incorporated community on the Willamette River located between the cities of Eugene and Springfield roughly defined the Willamette River to the north and west and Interstate 5 to the south and east. Franklin Boulevard is the central artery through Glenwood that links Eugene Springfield. Franklin Boulevard has recently been enhanced as a major connector with the EMX line and is one of the key factors in promoting future development.

Glenwood's identity has been eclipsed by these two larger neighbors to either side so that it currently does not have a distinct character of its own. Seen more as a "pass through community" rather than as a destination, Glenwood has struggled to become what it deserves to be: a vibrant, livable community in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Glenwood is home to a variety of uses, some of them marginal: industrial, residential and commercial that do not add up cumulatively to a strong presence.

This lack of identity and ambiguous sense of place is the major urban design challenge facing this community and is central to our urban design study. Despite all its shortcomings Glenwood is strategically located, connected via the EMX, close by major centers in the metropolitan region and bordering on the north with a beautiful frontage along the Willamette River. The potential of this community has not been realized to date. The growing need for housing attendant commercial and institutional support as well as recreational and work opportunities make the Glenwood ripe for development. The question is not so much whether Glenwood will be transformed in the next 30 to 50 years—that is certain—but whether development will occur in the best possible way so as to enhance Glenwood's natural assets and contribute to an overall design that contributes to a livable community for its citizens.

### **Methodology**

The studio will explore this challenge in teams of three or four person groups.

Staged investigations along with lectures and focused exercises will take place at regular weekly intervals during the term. These will include:

A. Site Analysis including natural and built features; land use, transportation systems

This will also require a physical model and appropriate figure/ground drawings

B. Precedent studies of American waterfront and other relevant communities such as:

Savannah, Georgia	Seaside Florida	Amsterdam, Holland
Bend, Oregon	Bordeaux, France	Copenhagen, Denmark
Portland, Oregon	Venice, Italy	

D. "Urban Anatomy" studies including:

- a. traditional urban block typologies including courtyards, alleys and mid-block gardens
- b. the street and its variations: looking at the idea of "Great Streets"
- c. form based codes as a means to guide development

E. Housing Typologies

- a. courtyard housing
- b. low-rise, high density solutions

F. Open space strategies:

- a. river front parks , promenades and pocket parks
- b. landscape streets

G. Movement systems: pedestrian, EMX, bicycle paths, automobiles, etc.

## Final Project

Each team will be responsible for a final overall plan of Glenwood indicating major design features:  
building strategies, street design, parks, movement systems (see Taylor Yard presentation above).

## Bibliography:

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- Morini, M. (1963). *Atlante di storia dell'urbanistica (dalla preistoria all'inizio del secolo XX)*. Milano: Hoepli.
- Arnold, H. (1993). *Trees in Urban design (2nd ed.)*. New York, NY: Van Nostrand Reinhold.
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- A., Speck, Jeff, & Lydon, Mike. (2010). *The smart growth manual*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Thadani, D. (2010). *The language of towns & cities : A visual dictionary*. New York: Rizzoli : Distributed to the U.S. trade by Random House.
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