This class investigates the relationship between making and thinking. Students will explore the many ways that design thinking is applied across multiple scales of the built environment. The goal of this course is to help students gain new approaches to problem-solving; discover an appreciation for the design process; and understand how design shapes the physical world in which we live.

It is organized as an interactive studio that uses project-based learning. Participants will be assigned a dedicated workspace to serve as a home base and personal laboratory. Course delivery will include: hands-on workshops, group discussion, peer presentation, and one-on-one conversation. To guide our efforts, we will read and discuss essays on creativity, cognition, problem-solving, and design theory. We will also examine the creative work of contemporary designers to learn ways of finding meaningful solutions to real-world challenges in the built environment.

This studio welcomes students who have little to no formal design training. The intellectual diversity of our collective backgrounds will be counted as a strength.

Participants can expect to develop skills in visual literacy, visual communication, and craft. Accordingly, this course may be of particular interest to those seeking future studies in environmental design including architecture, landscape architecture, and interior architecture. Subject matter will probe the boundaries between these disciplines and outcomes may help students build portfolio content.