Parking and the City:
How new modes of mobility hold the key for transforming our cities and public life

“…from the age of the dinosaurs, cars have run on gasoline where, where have they gone? now it's nothing, but flowers.”

Talking Heads, (Nothing but) Flowers lyrics

Of all the infrastructural systems that support our cities, mobility infrastructure is perhaps the most influential in determining the city form and public life. The car in the form of privately own vehicles has been the most dominant form of transportation in the twentieth century in the US. The changing roles of the private vehicle along with new modes of mobility and transportation infrastructure hold the key for transforming our cities and public life. Parking and the City studio propose to study how the cars changing demand for fluid space and static (empty) space can become a key instrument for re-dimensioning the city and public life. This Studio will use the city of Eugene as a laboratory for exploring the potential of these changing modes of mobility for freeing space for transforming the city of Eugene. Students will study Eugene’s diverse typology of parking lots and structures to develop urban and architectural design strategies for the future of the city of Eugene.

Students will observe, document, analyze and assess how Eugene’s parking structures and parking lots (voids) work. How they support the urban fabric and how they inhibit or generate public life. Students will work individually and collectively to develop a series of proposed interventions across different scales from general urban strategies to specific design projects.