PROJECT DESCRIPTION  Rosa Village is a residential project currently being developed in West Eugene to help meet the needs resulting from the local affordable housing shortage and homelessness. The intention of the developer is to provide both housing and community for the future occupants. This is an actual project to which this studio will be able to contribute. The project developer is Square One Villages, a local non-profit that has produced 66 micro-and tiny houses for the local community. The land has been purchased, and engineering and traffic studies are expected to be complete in March. The results of these studies will significantly impact the site design and density of the project. Site and unit designs are scheduled to commence concurrently with the beginning of this studio.

TINY HOMES  The studio will collaborate with Square One Village consultants and other local professionals to explore the most practical ways to provide the greatest number of tiny home units for the community. Previously built projects by Square One Villages are based on a tiny home format which is efficient and allows some building code advantages. The studio professor, working with OregonBILDS students, has also has recently completed a cluster of tiny homes.

THE STUDIO:  The studio will work individually and in teams to develop the project at a range of scales – site design, landscape, community buildings, and housing units. The first few weeks of studio will be dedicated to defining and visualizing in terms of program, site constraints, code restrictions, energy performance, and aesthetic appeal. Students will have the opportunity to work in small teams or individually. Following the midterm review(s), development will proceed to a more focused and refined scale with the option to produce drawings and/or models that describe the construction of the tiny units. The studio will work closely with the developer, a range of local professionals, and potential users to produce a scheme that is beautiful, practical, sustainable, and replicable.

ISSUES TO BE STRESSED:  This will be an intensive studio with emphasis on site planning, environmental responsibility, elegant use of materials, and the creation of beautiful human-scale spaces tailored to the needs of the underhoused population. Opportunities to develop designs to a detailed level and to explore the unconventional use of materials will be exploited. A variety of media with an emphasis on models will be employed to explore design alternatives. The work will lead to schematic designs at midterm and culminate with the presentation of a holistic scheme at final review. Schemes will be expected to be developed with some critical area(s) refined to a high level of detail. The entire studio experience will be highly interactive, exploratory, and collaborative. Talking points will include:

• The nature of sustainable architecture.
• Fundamentals of residential design – site design, building design, budget, legal restrictions.
• Fundamental issues of affordable housing.
• Integration of building technology to define/support the spirit of the project.
• The potential for efficiencies to be found in prefabrication.
• Collaboration, teamwork, and the role of the individual in the design process.

Primary References
Suggested readings, videos, and other resources will be announced when students are enrolled.