“...whereas dialogic processes, especially those involved with regular spoken conversation, involve a type of listening that attends to the implicit intentions behind the speaker’s actual words. Unlike a dialectic process, dialogics often do not lead to closure and remain unresolved. Compared to dialectics, a dialogic exchange can be less competitive, and more suitable for facilitating cooperation.”

(Richard Sennett “The Architecture of Cooperation” Lecture at the GSD, Harvard University)

Design is stuck in the past. When buildings are conceived to respond to previously defined needs they risk becoming obsolete even before they are completed. Many historic buildings originally intended for commercial or industrial uses have been repurposed as contemporary housing. More recently, the current pandemic has changed the relationship with our homes, forcing us to bring workspaces into our private living environments. (Housing) design needs to be more flexible to adapt to the unpredictable and ever-changing conditions of life. How can we design for uncertain futures while answering today’s needs?

The studio will be developed as part of this year’s Sustainable City Year Program, partnering with the City of Troutdale. The City is revitalizing Opportunity Site 7, a 4.3-acre area identified in the city’s forthcoming Town Center Plan. The site has recently been acquired by Home Forward, a Portland based organization with the mission of providing affordable housing, who are determined to build 105 housing units within the next few years.

Building from fall term’s research developed by UoO PPPM students, and in conversation with Troutdale city planners and Home Forward, architecture students will develop proposals for adaptable and intergenerational housing that best fit within the context and program requirements.
The studio will begin with student teams developing an urban design analysis and proposal for the site. Students will rely on individual site visits, conversations with our partners: SCYP, City of Troutdale, Home Forward, PPPM and the robust site materials (video documentation, reports, plans) provided by them to inform their design strategies.

Once teams define their urban design strategy, students will develop their project individually or continue to work in their teams.