

# DESIGNING FUTURES IN POSTINDUSTRIAL GROUNDS

## Learning from regional initiatives of urban transformation in the US and Germany

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This initiative brings together a joint Master of Urban Design Spring Capstone course (9 credits) and Graduate Study Abroad Course (3 credits) to explore the agency of design in the making of sustainable futures in postindustrial grounds. Students enrolled in the course will develop a comparative study between selected cases addressing the urban transformation of postindustrial regions in the US Rust Belt (Chicago-Detroit-Cleveland) and the Germany (Rhein-Ruhr Region, Hannover, Hamburg and Berlin). The course will address the architectural, landscape and urban strategies advancing the making of more resilient regions, its successes and failures. Participants will engage in research, first hand documentation and critique, to develop a robust understanding of contemporary debates in urban design and inform their own design proposals.

The semester will start in Ann Arbor, developing initial investigations in preparation for the field trip. The group will visit Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago before embarking in international travel. In this three geographies, we will select specific case studies and meet relevant agents in their development. Travel to Germany will take place in the third week of May and span for three weeks. The field studies will cover several cities in the agglomeration of the Rhein-Ruhr Region (Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Duisburg, Essen, Bottrop, Gelsenkirchen, Bochum, Dortmund) plus the cities of Hannover, Hamburg and Berlin, all of them with relevant projects targeting post-industrial redevelopments, eco-city approaches and other sustainable frameworks ranging in scale from the regional landscape patterns, city scale masterplans to the urban block and building types.

The first week of June, students will participate in the International Symposium and Design Workshop *"Transforming City Regions III: Urban Integration,"* at Zeche Zollverein, Essen, Germany. This initiative approaches the agglomeration of the Ruhr Region as a breeding ground for urban experimentation through the consideration of five thematic components: polycentric structures of urban agglomeration, multi-scalar models with locally divergent development speeds, resilience and adaptive capacity, social integration and digital culture. During the symposium, students will participate in different activities including paper presentations by academics and practitioners attending the event, and will participate in a workshop to foster the development of interdisciplinary and multi-scalar design strategies. The design sessions will be supported through input from external consultants, and feedback from local stakeholders, communities and professionals. Up to date, confirmed participants are TU Dortmund, University of Virginia, University of Michigan, and RWTH Aachen.

Study Abroad students and Capstone students will work together in the semester components specified above. Collectively, the group will develop a field guide documenting their field studies and theories and discourses supporting the projects and initiatives, and their own personal experiences during the visits. In addition, capstone students will be responsible of framing their own design proposals in consultation with instructors. They will be able to work in team or independently, and select the location and focus of their proposals.

The course is required for MUD Students, and open to 12 additional graduate students from MArch, MLA, MS, and MURP degrees.

## Budget

The tentative course budget is US\$3,388, and faculty will make every effort to keep the final costs under this amount. In order to ensure an affordable plane rate and secure hostel rooms, we will work with students on reservations by the beginning of March.

Each Taubman College student will receive a US\$1,000 stipend to aid travel costs. Additionally, faculty will apply to the International Institute Experiential Learning Fund to support with up to an additional US\$400.

### Air Transportation

Chicago/Detroit to Berlin and Frankfurt/Dusseldorf/Chicago, round trip, cheapest fare ..... \$1,300

### Ground Transportation

AA-Airport-AA ..... \$70

Trains in Germany connecting among cities ..... \$450

[Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover, Dortmund, Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, Bottrop, Essen, Duisburg, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Frankfurt]

Bike Rental in Germany ..... \$90

Buses in Germany ..... \$50

Bike Rental Detroit, 2 days ..... \$30

Van Rental to Cleveland and gas, 2 days at \$63/day ..... \$180

### Hostels in Germany, Cleveland and Chicago

Stays in several cities, \$40 average cost per night, 20 nights, four beds per room ..... \$800

Stay in Cleveland youth hostel, 1 night, shared rooms, \$35 ..... \$35

Stay in Chicago youth hostel, 2 nights, shared rooms, \$70 ..... \$70

### Museums and other cultural activities

Average, \$5 / day ..... \$100

The cost of attending the workshop will be included in the course fees

### Other logistics

Visa, depending nationalities, average ..... \$150

Medical Insurance, \$5 + \$1,15 per day, 21 days ..... \$30

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**Total ..... \$3,355**