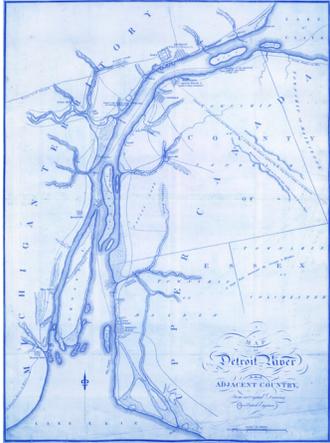


URP 551+ARCH509

Detroit River, Great Lakes Watershed



Map of Detroit River and Adjacent Country. Original Drawing by a British Engineer. H.S. Tanner. (1824) Rumsey Collection.



Sites along the Detroit River depicting the diversity of residential, recreational, industrial, farm land and wildlife sites. Images show the transformation from 1949 to 2019. Sources: DTE Aerial Map Collection at Wayne State University and Google Earth.



Gateway to Freedom International Memorial to the Underground Railroad, sculpted by Edward Dwight (2001). Facing Windsor, Canada, this memorial commemorates the journey of thousands of enslaved African-Americans on their way to Canada through the underground railroad. Photograph by Brian Callahan.

Physical Planning and Design Workshop: Detroit River StoryLab

FALL 2021

TAUBMAN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

TUE 4:00-7:00PM

ROOM 1360 A&AB

Instructor: María Arquero de Alarcón, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urbanism [marquero@umich.edu]

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to URP551 / ARCH509! This is a project-based, three-credit course that introduces core disciplinary competencies in Physical Planning and Design and engages in the spatialization of socio-environmental and culturally rooted processes in the built environment. Through the engagement with the **Detroit River StoryLab**, the course participates in conversations depicting a multiplicity of approaches and perspectives to the study of the Detroit River as a living cultural landscape. Classes provide a dynamic learning experience integrating lectures, readings and discussions, software tutorials, and meetings with other network members and regional partners.

Open to MArch, MLA, MUD, and MURP students, the course offers a platform for learning, experimentation, critique, conversations with scholars, practitioners and local groups, and exchange of ideas, enabling the exploration of specific interests in the field. Your work will build incrementally: in the first third of the semester, you will exercise **elements and methods of physical planning and urban design** and read, discuss and critique relevant **texts and precedents**. Following this stage, you will experiment with **thick mapping techniques** as a medium to develop critical readings of place and time. Building on these initial stages, your final **design project** will actively engage on the concept of **urban sustainability and socio-environmental storytelling** to reflect on contemporary re-urbanization trends, draw cultural critique and project new imaginaries.

LEARNING GOALS

During the semester, you will:

- Compile, synthesize, and assess relevant information addressing **multicultural perspectives**.
- Inform and conceptualize your ideas based on the **research** of socio-spatial, historical, political, economic, cultural, environmental and local sources.
- Identify the diverse **constituencies** at play in the processes of urban transformation and their agendas, and the role of meaningful **participatory processes** to sustain communities in place.
- Establish a clear basis for compiling, editing and organizing **relevant data**.
- Use appropriate **graphic representation and digital visualization** media in 2d and 3d to convey essential characteristics relevant to your work (scale, density, temporality, livability).
- Assess the impact of **regulatory frameworks, cultural practices and human behavior** in the planning and design of the built environment.
- Learn from relevant **precedent studies**, assessing their transferability and replicability.
- Exercise **critical thinking** and promote inquisitiveness, questioning the potential bias of information sources, using abstract ideas to interpret information and considering diverse points of view in your recommendations.
- Integrate interpersonal and cross-cultural **communication** techniques effectively, mobilizing a range of media formats and targeting broad audiences.
- Work in **collaboration** with peers, embracing difference, building mutual trust and performing different roles to broaden the scope and diversity of perspectives in your work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To actively engage in the co-design of the course and your own learning experience, you will contribute to the selection of relevant texts and precedents for the semester and define the focus of your final project. **Course exercises** include [1] reading, commenting, exercising, and debating the course materials, [2] participating in peer learning activities with other units, [3] learning from precedent, [4] a team-based thick mapping exercise, and [5] a visual urban narrative/collaborative component on the Detroit River (individually or in group), building on your semester research and defined in consultation with the instructor. As a final product, [6] you will compile the semester's work in a comprehensive e-book / website.

The course positions visualization as a mode of inquiry and spatial thinking. All assignment components will require you to exercise writing and visual representation skills, present to peers and participate in peer learning assessments of the work. To give you more agency on your learning, you will build your own scoring rubric for grading by selecting the depth and breadth of your contributions per assignment.