



Master of Urban and
Regional Planning



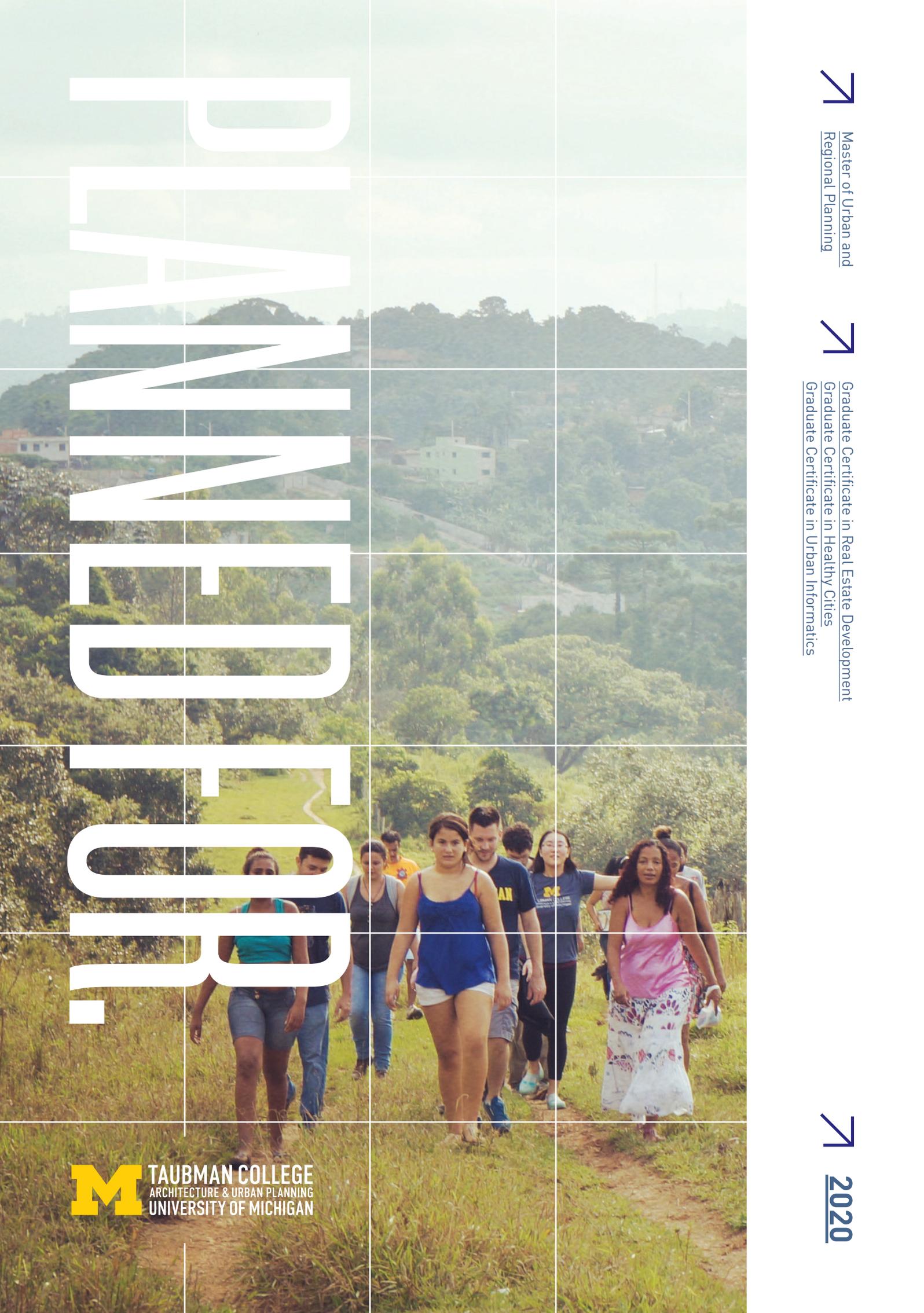
Graduate Certificate in Real Estate Development
Graduate Certificate in Healthy Cities
Graduate Certificate in Urban Informatics



2020

PLANNED FOR.

M TAUBMAN COLLEGE
ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN





MADE AT MICHIGAN.



ABOVE: Students gather for Dean Jonathan Massey's annual kick-off lecture in the Commons.

BELOW: Aerial view of Beirut's Green Line from "Post-Trauma Aesthetics" by Adam Abou-Alewi, M.U.D. '17, and Erika Linenfelser, M.U.R.P./M.U.D. '17. Courtesy of Agora.

TO GET AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION in urban and regional planning, you must be part of a gathering of great minds who plan in community-focused, multidisciplinary ways. As part of the University of Michigan, Taubman College offers you an unmatched breadth of opportunity to become a leader who plans for and engages with communities for the greater good.

To really understand urban and regional planning in context, you have to have a holistic view. That's where the strength of the University of Michigan will help you set yourself apart. From architecture to public policy to social work and beyond, attending Taubman College connects you to all that the country's top research university offers. Taubman College faculty are celebrated practitioners and dedicated teachers who see planning as a vehicle for improving our world and use their expertise in equitable development, global food access, transportation, and other disciplines to do so. Our students bring diverse perspectives that will broaden your experience inside and outside the classroom. And the across-the-board excellence of the University of Michigan means that whatever your interests, you will learn from and alongside the best.

From the moment you join Taubman College, you also will be part of one of the world's largest, most diverse, and most passionate alumni communities. In nonprofits, companies, and all levels of government around the world, "Go Blue" is a unifying statement of pride and recognition of excellence that will expand your network and open doors for you for a lifetime.

The endless possibilities at Taubman College give you the freedom to be true to who you are as a person and practitioner in a community that will challenge and support you. You will leave Taubman College with a career that was built at Michigan and made for anywhere and everywhere you want to go.



ABOVE: *Rendering of Landscape Intervention Surrounding Rehabilitated Bungalows from "Hybrid Noham" by Mike Davis Jr., M.U.R.P. '16, and Lesley Rivera, M.U.R.P. '16. Courtesy of Agora.*

BELOW: Master of urban planning students talk with students at Santa Marta School in Brazil during a site visit for their capstone project.





**WE SEE
THE BIG
PICTURE.**



“My dual degree taught me how to frame a problem and how to employ design thinking to solve it. I suddenly was thinking from a different dimension — like a planner in my urban design classes and like a designer in my urban planning classes — and I can’t fully describe how much the experience has meant to my life and career.”

— **SRINIDHI VENUGOPAL, M.U.R.P./M.U.D. '18**
Landscape designer at Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl (Singapore)

Venugopal works on projects around the world for Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl (RSD), whose work in Singapore includes Jurong Lake Garden West, Singapore’s new national gardens. At RSD, Venugopal focuses on water-sensitive urban design, which aligns well with her passion for making an impact by doing ecologically sensitive work that directly benefits the people who live there — whether on the scale of one building, a park, or an entire city.



ABOVE: Through capstone projects, students work directly with community stakeholders to develop solutions to real-world problems.

BELOW: Saigon, Vietnam by Colin Brown, M.U.R.P. '19. Courtesy of Agora.

GLOBAL ACCESS.



YOU WILL NOT JUST BE A STUDENT AT TAUBMAN COLLEGE.

You'll be part of one of the world's best research universities, which attracts top student and faculty minds from all over the world.

As a result, you have endless opportunities to understand deeper and think bigger. Our faculty are excited to help you explore your ideas and interests, and their cross-campus collaborations enhance your education. In 2018–2019 alone, our faculty worked with the College of Engineering to secure a \$1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study mobility issues. They partnered with the schools of social work and medicine to begin developing a migrant model of health care. They co-taught a Michigan Law class about robots in the workplace. They secured funding from the university's Poverty Solutions initiative to study the state's high eviction rate. And they worked through the university's Graham Sustainability Institute to address food scarcity in our community and around the world.

Elective classes or our dual degrees and graduate certificates also will broaden your education. Class discussions and group projects with students from vastly different backgrounds — across the university, as well as the architecture and urban design students within our own building — will make you a better planner by challenging your assumptions. And they'll make you a better practitioner because you'll have a feel for the team-based approach you'll need to succeed in the working world.

After graduation, the power of Michigan's global reach means you are part of an unequaled alumni network. Michigan alumni are well-positioned, well-connected leaders who want to help you succeed. And they are engaged in the life of the college through speaking events, Career Fair, Spring Break externships, and more.



Joe Grengs / Member of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity; Officer of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning



Larissa Larsen / Member of the university's President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality



Jonathan Levine / Member of the Science Advisory Board for the Urban Dynamics Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratories



Marc Norman / Member of the Federal Reserve Board's Community Advisory Council

TAUBMAN COLLEGE DUAL DEGREES

M.U.R.P. + Master of Architecture

M.U.R.P. + Master of Urban Design

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DUAL DEGREES

M.U.R.P. + J.D.

M.U.R.P. + M.B.A.

M.U.R.P. + Master of Environment and Sustainability

M.U.R.P. + Master of Landscape Architecture

M.U.R.P. + Master of Public Health

M.U.R.P. + Master of Public Policy

M.U.R.P. + Master of Social Work

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Healthy Cities

Real Estate Development

Urban Informatics

#1

Public research university in the U.S.

— National Science Foundation

97

University of Michigan graduate programs have top-10 rankings

10,000

Taubman College alumni

500,000

University of Michigan alumni



“I was ready to make that next step to be a leader in the thought space and practice of community and economic development. The experience I gained during my capstone project prepared me for the work I do now in many ways.”

— **JERMAINE RUFFIN, M.U.R.P. '17**
Director of Development (West Region)
for the City of Detroit

Ruffin was the client for a Taubman College capstone team when he worked for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. He chose Taubman College for his own planning degree partly because he was so impressed with the students' work. As a student himself, Ruffin's capstone developed an engagement plan for citizens and businesses near the new Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. His current work for the city builds on that experience, including leading the Fitzgerald Neighborhood Revitalization Project, the largest of its kind in the United States.



PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE.

PLANNING IS A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING FIELD, and by attending Taubman College, you will have the confidence and skills to evolve your practice along with it. That's because you will gain a practical, broad-minded disposition that will empower you to push the profession forward — to be thinking about what could be different, what could be better, and why it matters. One reason is that your teachers aren't just theorists; they are practitioners who bring real scenarios and real expertise to your class. Our GIS instructor, Tony Bedogne, is the senior GIS application developer for the City of Ann Arbor. Eric Dueweke, our faculty member who has led more than 50 capstone programs in Detroit, is a longtime community organizer in the city who leverages his strong relationships there to create substantive learning opportunities for you and your classmates. Jeffrey Kahan, who teaches our Urban Land Use Planning course, is a planner with the City of Ann Arbor, formerly with the City of Sacramento. Julie Steiff, our writing instructor, who is embedded in core courses, holds a Ph.D. in English.

In addition, our faculty excel at teaching the critical thinking skills that employers value. By giving you practical and thought-provoking assignments and guiding you to find solutions, they are teaching you to be a resilient, confident, self-directed learner. But at the same time, you are not left on your own. Time and again, students say that our faculty's engagement with and commitment to the students is one of their favorite things about Taubman College.



Expanded Horizons is an extended weekend in a city that offers a deep dive with urban planning professionals, neighborhood associations, urban designers, and architects. Previous Expanded Horizons destinations include Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago (pictured here), Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Toronto.

In your final semester, you will put your training to work serving real clients facing actual challenges. Our team-based capstone projects and individual professional projects are not academic exercises; at the end of the semester you will deliver an implementable action plan to your host organization. We have deep ties to the agencies with whom you will work, so you will gain a thorough understanding of the context surrounding the problem that you are being asked to solve. The result will be a better product and enhanced learning experience.

“The students helped the community learn how to leverage its standing. What impressed the community about the students' work was their clear assumption that the community had a role to play. The lasting value of the university's engagement is its corporate memory of the Southwest Detroit community and our progress toward true community benefit.”

— Kathy Wendler, former executive director of the Southwest Detroit Business Association, which was the client for the Paving the Way capstone. Paving the Way won the 2011 Outstanding Student Project Award from the Michigan Association of Planning.

10

of the last 12 Michigan Association of Planning Outstanding Graduate Student Planning Project Awards have gone to Taubman College capstones



Ocupação Anchieta Avança!

Professors Maria Arquero de Alarcón and Ana Paula Pimentel Walker led a joint urban planning and architecture course that worked with the Anchieta Occupation in Brazil. Students surveyed the community to prioritize needs and developed a multi-pronged plan that included design of a new cultural hub. Their work won nearly \$75,000 in grant funding and the 2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Planning Project Award from the Michigan Association of Planning.



Stabilizing Morningside

The Stabilizing Morningside capstone project won the national 2018 Student Project Award from the American Institute of Certified Planners. Stabilizing Morningside, which also won the Michigan Association of Planning's Outstanding Graduate Student Project Award in 2017, focused on the housing conditions in a once-stable neighborhood on the east side of Detroit that has been affected by mortgage and property tax foreclosures.



WE PUSH BOUNDARIES.



“Racist policies and practices purposely created inequitable distribution of economic, social, and political power, which puts communities of color at most risk to the impacts from climate change. I lead difficult conversations around disparities and climate change to encourage a proactive, equity-centered approach. I chose Michigan because the dual degree with the School for Environment and Sustainability allowed me to work on climate change and social systems. I knew I would be wasting my time and energy if I wasn’t addressing these issues together.”

— KRISTIN BAJA, M.U.R.P./M.S. '11
Climate Resilience Officer at the Urban Sustainability
Directors Network (Baltimore)

[Baja helps cities identify strategic ways to advance climate resilience planning and implementation, and build their capacity to take proactive action. Her work helps to accelerate the implementation of equity-centered action while advancing learning, collaboration, and momentum around climate resilience. In 2016, the Obama administration recognized her as a Champion of Change for her work on climate and equity.](#)



FUTURE- FOCUSED MINDSET.



URBAN PLANNERS ARE THE ENTREPRENEURS OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT. We think three steps ahead; we look for opportunity in every situation. We plan.

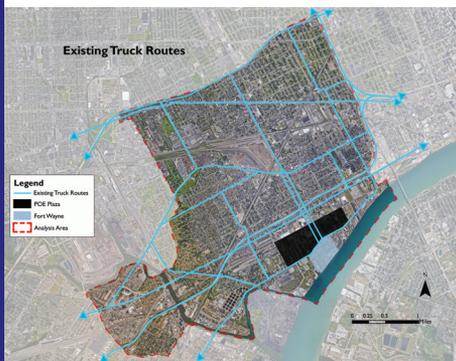
At Taubman College, you will use the latest technology, like our Spatial and Numeric Data Services (SAND) Lab, whose tools will help you handle digital geographic information and spatial analysis of built form. We incorporate the technology into the curriculum as a teaching tool to prepare you for your professional career. In addition, we are leaders on campus in providing courses in geographic information systems (GIS). To supplement classwork, we offer regular software and technology tutorials and workshops throughout the year, including InDesign, AutoCAD, and other design tools.

Taubman College buzzes with a spirit of thinking differently. It's not just about the latest technology; it's a mindset you'll see in our faculty, in our doctoral students who are pursuing new paths of research, and in your fellow students. We don't plan for the future by using what works now. Instead, we anticipate what will work better.



View of Lyndhurst Terrace and Gage Street from "The Catalytic Escalators of Hong Kong" by Liz Szatko, M.Arch '17.
Courtesy of Agora.

Taubman College's 2018 **Shaping Future Cities Symposium** convened interdisciplinary panels to discuss how new technologies and development practices are transforming cities operationally, socially, and spatially — and the correlating opportunities and challenges for planning and architecture. Topics included disruptive private-sector innovations like ridesharing, the questions that ubiquitous sensing raises about data privacy and ownership, and how technology-enabled services are changing our experience of the city, yet exclude many and expand existing social divides. Josh Sirefman, M.U.R.P. '03, chief development officer at Sidewalk Labs, gave the keynote address, in which he outlined plans for the new Sidewalk Toronto development.



Students in the 2018 **Bridging the Gap** capstone examined how noise pollution will affect residents near the yet-to-be-built Gordie Howe International Bridge that will connect Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. They used a visualization program to show neighborhood residents how trucks will travel down the bridge ramp and along the service drive, and they compared these elevations with the height of proposed sound walls protecting the adjacent residential neighborhood. To give residents a futuristic look, they created a short video of the view from a residential window after the bridge is built.



Robert Goodspeed teaches GIS, collaborative planning, and scenario planning theory and methods. His research investigates how new information technologies can improve planning processes and outcomes, and it involves mixed-methods studies of innovative urban planning practice, the use of GIS to develop novel methods, and theoretical analysis of sociotechnical practices like crowdfunding and smart cities. He was named a Leading Thinker in Urban Planning and Technology by the website Planetizen.



Lan Deng is an expert on low-income housing tax credits in Detroit and modeling the ramifications if they are allowed to expire. She also collaborates with colleagues in China and students at Taubman College to examine the efficiency and equity issues in China's Housing Provident Fund program, one of the most important housing finance programs in China.



**WE SOLVE
PROBLEMS.**

“My career plan flipped when Professor [Jonathan] Levine said that Michigan planning grads make great developers because they bring a progressive perspective that makes a lasting impression on the growth of cities.”

— **TIM PARHAM, M.U.R.P./GRAD.CERT (REAL ESTATE) '08**
Director of Real Estate at Plymouth Housing (Seattle)

Seattle has the third-highest rate of homelessness in the United States. At Plymouth Housing, Parham leads a “housing-first” model that provides permanent, affordable housing for residents who come directly from the streets. His current projects include five new developments that will provide 500 apartments to qualified homeless individuals, including seniors and veterans.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Students traveled to the Philippines as part of an urban planning capstone course to explore ways to restructure communities to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. They worked with volunteers from Buklod Tao, a disaster-preparedness organization in Manila.

AS A PLANNER, YOU WILL HAVE THE POWER TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE'S LIVES. From improving access to housing to fostering more sustainable development to enhancing travel, you will affect people's relationship with the built and natural environments. At Taubman College, the impact of our work on real people is at the center of everything we do because we are grounded in the University of Michigan's mission to promote the public good and are committed to improving life in the state of Michigan and beyond. We are thinking about how planning can help solve complex challenges facing humankind, as well as how it can make life easier, more beautiful, and more engaging for a family, a neighborhood, or a community.

Our mission is straight-forward: We believe planning can change the world. Through place-based and interdisciplinary approaches, good planning promotes a just and sustainable future.

Taubman College's proximity to Detroit will give you immersive opportunities to explore how to create more inclusive and equitable communities. When combined with the University of Michigan's prestige, which enables us to bring together preeminent scholars and the most talented students, you are getting the best education possible. As just one example, the majority of our semester-long capstone projects will place you with Detroit-based clients. But while our relationships in Detroit give you unique access, you won't only be studying and working there. You'll find Taubman College faculty, students, and alumni across the United States and around the world, and the lessons and skills you'll learn in Detroit will help you no matter where you go.



Coastal Resiliency

Professor Richard Norton and a team of researchers — including students from Taubman College, Michigan Law, the Department of English, and the School for Environment and Sustainability — have developed scenario-based planning methods to help Great Lakes coastal communities respond to fluctuating water levels and increasing storms. They are helping local planners analyze shore dynamics, potential fiscal impacts, and environmental vulnerabilities, and have developed policy options to better protect coastal areas.



Food Security

A team of Michigan researchers that includes Professor Lesli Hoey, with a \$450,000 grant from the Graham Sustainability Institute, works on accelerating progress toward sustainable diets in the Global South. Hoey is part of the U-M Sustainable Food Systems Initiative, whose multidisciplinary faculty function as a think tank that analyzes issues of food and agriculture. Their recent World Development paper, "Development pathways toward zero hunger," is an example of the group's collaborative research and outreach work, which involves students from Taubman College and campuswide.

Community Connection

Urban and regional planning professor Harley Etienne and architecture professors Anya Sirota and John Marshall are part of a team that won an international competition in 2019 to design a new plaza connecting the area surrounding the Detroit Institute of Arts. Their plan is a "locally rooted, contextually and environmentally responsive framework" to unify 12 public institutions and create an inclusive cultural district spanning 83 acres in Detroit.



Urban Sprawl

Professor Larissa Larsen identifies environmental inequities in the built environment and advances issues of urban sustainability. She collaborates with School of Public Health faculty to conduct urban heat vulnerability assessments for the National Institutes of Health and recently has been leading a green infrastructure planning project with collaborators in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that focuses on water and infrastructure stresses on the rapidly growing city. Taubman College students have assisted her work in multiple ways, including by mapping the existing land cover conditions from high-resolution satellite imagery.





MADE AT MICHIGAN, BUILT FOR YOU.

AS A TAUBMAN COLLEGE STUDENT, YOU CAN BE ... YOU.

No one else at the college has your exact experience, ideas, and goals, and that's exactly the way we like it. We aren't trying to mold our students into one particular type of planner. We are trying to help you unlock your potential and find your passion.

Along the way, your classmates will help you see the world differently, and you will do the same for them. Your faculty will probe you to consider "What if?" and "Why?" Together we will advance knowledge and bring out the best in each other. You will build a unique camaraderie with your peers and be each other's frontline reviewers, idea exchangers, and cheerleaders as you navigate your time at Taubman College.

Being part of the best opens the world to you. The prestige of the University of Michigan brings U.S. presidents, Supreme Court justices, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and other luminaries on the international stage to our campus. During the 2018–2019 academic year, Taubman College hosted two conferences that attracted thought-leaders from around the country to discuss the complexities of future cities and equitable development, while two of the most prominent names in architecture — Sir David Adjaye and MASS Design Group — taught studios here. That's the power of a global brand like Michigan.



Enrich your student experience through the Urban Planning Student Association (UPSA). In 2019, UPSA won an award for excellence from the American Planning Association — one of only two awards given nationally. UPSA organizes the annual Expanded Horizons program, which visited Detroit in 2018.

Taubman College is ...



"OPPORTUNITY. Through classes, travel grants, and general partnerships throughout the university, Taubman College has supported my academic efforts around the world and at home. Taubman College also brings in highly regarded professionals, practitioners, and academics from outside of the university to highlight unique voices that are shaping and evolving the fields. As a dual-degree student, I have worked in the design space and the intensely academic space. Each discipline brings a unique perspective through policy, programming, process, building, and design, and Taubman College gives me the ability to access these interrelated fields."

— Gwen Gell, M.U.R.P./M.U.D. '20



"ACHIEVING A DREAM. I am grateful for the privilege to earn a master's degree in urban planning from Taubman College. As a nontraditional student, I returned to school later in life to pursue a lifelong goal and have been rewarded with the opportunity to contribute to my community in a purposeful and meaningful way."

— Dan Commer, M.U.R.P. '19



"TRANSFORMATIVE, challenging, and centering. Taubman College gave me the space to center in on my passions and define my role in this broad, overwhelming field of urban planning, real estate, and community development. The people I met challenged me to be bold, to learn new skills, and to make sense of my seemingly disjointed past experiences — because everyone has a role to play in ensuring that the planning profession represents as many definitions of community as possible."

— India Solomon, M.U.R.P. '19



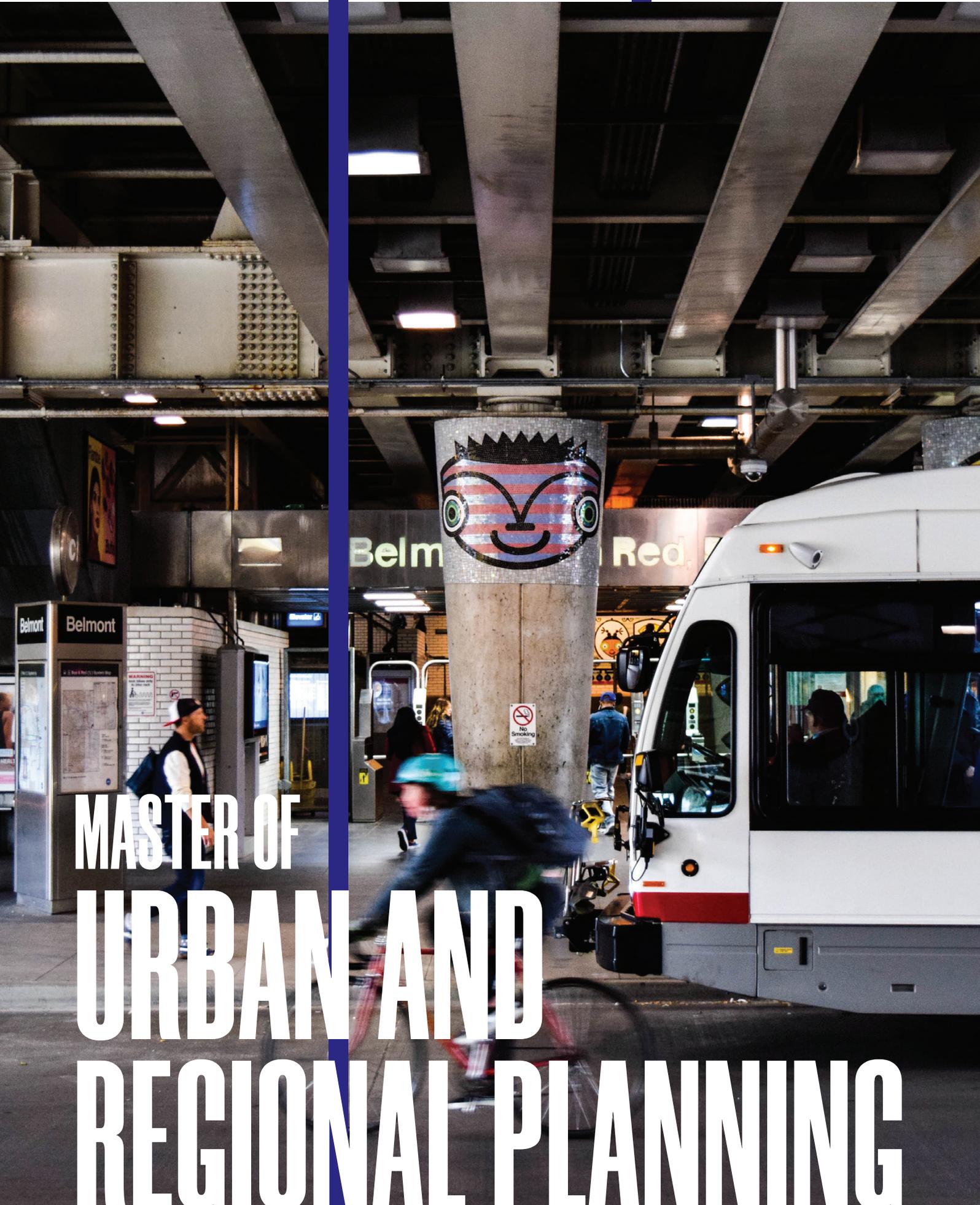
"MULTIFACETED. Taubman College's planning program has given me the tools and framework to consider all sorts of issues from an array of lenses. It's become difficult for me to visit a new place and not start thinking about zoning codes, (dis)investment, and policy. Taubman faculty do a great job of listening to students and incorporating their interests, questions, and frustrations into their coursework. Moreover, the University of Michigan is an incredible place to be a graduate student. There are more resources than I could possibly take advantage of."

— Alex Abramowitz, M.U.R.P. '20



"A GROWTH EXPERIENCE. I grew not only academically, but also through a deeper understanding about social justice, personal reflections about identity, tangible skills through internships, and leadership through student organizations."

— Karis Tzeng, M.U.R.P. '19



MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

THE MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (M.U.R.P.)

degree is a two-year program that begins in the fall.

We take a broad view of the scope of urban and regional planning, and our core courses provide a foundation for all areas of planning. From there, through electives, dual degrees, and graduate certificates, you'll have many opportunities to explore the path or paths that excite you the most.

FOCUS AREAS

Our five focus areas give you depth in a specific area of urban and regional planning. You can choose to specialize in one focus area or select electives from across two or more to create your own focus. In addition, you can take courses across the University of Michigan.

Global and Comparative Planning

Examine the interconnected social, cultural, and political-economic processes that frame patterns of urban development and planning in the United States and abroad. You'll develop the tools and ideas to understand how globalization impacts the local space of cities and regions, work effectively in multicultural settings, empower marginalized populations, and facilitate collaborative practice.

Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Learn how to plan housing, neighborhoods, and the economic well-being of a community and the larger region. You'll understand how to increase social and economic capital and improve the quality of life generally — especially in low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities.



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

By Cameron Carley, M.U.R.P. '20.
Courtesy of Agora.

Land Use and Environmental Planning

Prepare to work toward the long-term environmental and social sustainability of land use. You'll learn to better inform private and public decision-making processes related to land development, especially within the context of ongoing issues of urban decline and suburban sprawl.

Physical Planning and Design

Contribute to the design, function, and sustainability of our communities by visualizing scale, density, and the physical dimensions of built structures, transportation systems, and infrastructure requirements. You'll learn how to create and review site plans, study design philosophies, and experience how community participation can enhance design.

Transportation Planning

Build an interdisciplinary range of skills and perspectives in transportation planning, including understanding its societal roles, applied technical and evaluation skills, historical uses and mis-uses of techniques, and the rich interdependencies between transportation planning and other areas of urban and regional planning. You'll understand the interaction of transportation and land-use planning, the social equity dimensions of transportation, alternative approaches to public transit policy, the role of technology in improving transportation systems, transportation's role in environmental quality, and how to advance accessibility-based policy.

CORE COURSES

In your first year, you will take urban and regional planning core courses that cover urban and regional planning analysis; history and theory; professional practice; and the social, economic, political, legal, and physical aspects of planning. If you already have an acceptable level of competence in an area covered by a core course, you will be able to choose an additional elective.

URP 504 Introduction to Statistics
(for those who have not taken statistics)

URP 509 Public Economics
for Urban Planning
(for those who have not taken economics)

URP 500 Planning History
and Theory

URP 502 U.S. Planning Institutions
and Law or

URP 503 Comparative Planning
Institutions and Law

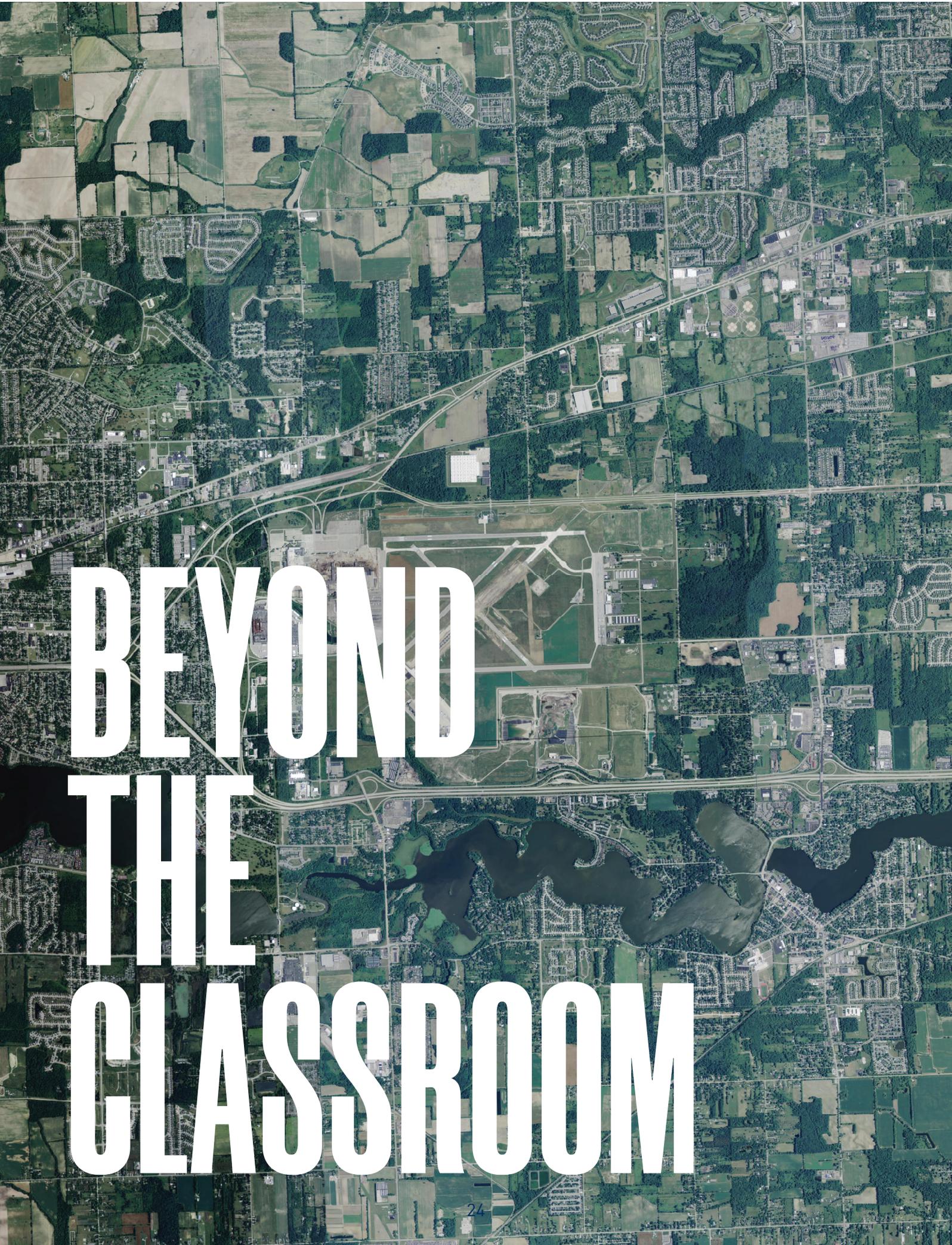
URP 506 Planning Methods

URP 507 Fundamentals of
Planning Practice

URP 508 Spatial Thinking and
Environmental Systems

URP 510 Fiscal Planning
and Management

URP 603 Capstone Studio or
URP 601 Planning Thesis or
URP 602 Professional Project



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

In your final semester, you'll draw on your learning to complete an exit project. Most students take a capstone studio course, but if you have a very unique interest or want to lay the foundation for doctoral studies, you can complete a professional project or a thesis instead of the capstone project.

URP 603 – Capstone Studio

Capstones are client-based, collaborative planning experiences that mirror actual practice. Your capstone course will be small (9 to 12 students), and an urban and regional planning faculty member and an urban planning practitioner will be your co-teachers. Each capstone is unique, focused on the needs of a community partner or client.

Capstones provide:

- An active learning experience for you. You'll address timely and relevant planning problems, engage with actual clients, and experience a professional work setting with the support of your teachers.
- Important assistance for local governments and nongovernmental community development groups. Your work will tangibly advance your client's mission or address a pressing planning problem that speaks to issues of social justice and sustainability. We look for capstone opportunities in organizations that lack the staff or other resources to undertake such projects on their own but that have sufficient capacity to work with students and move forward with your recommendations. The result: You'll know you've really, truly, made a difference.

URP 602 – Professional Project

Develop your creative abilities in planning and problem solving on a professional, client-based topic not otherwise provided by a capstone studio. You'll most likely work with one faculty member and one community partner who together will be your project advisers. Professional projects formulate policy goals and consider multiple constituencies, and they develop from your community partner's perception of a need.

URP 601 – Planning Thesis

If you plan to continue on with doctoral studies after you complete your master's in urban and regional planning, writing a thesis can lay the groundwork. You'll produce a creative, scholarly work developed from your own research with the support of faculty members who are leaders in their field.

“My research was new for the field of urban planning. It pushed the boundaries by looking at how urban food systems can affect issues that planners traditionally focus on, like housing, transportation, and access to utilities, as well as the implications of state and federal policy changes.”

— **Jess Wunsch, M.U.R.P./M.P.P. '19**
Her professional project examined how cuts to SNAP benefits (food stamps) are affecting organizations in Washtenaw County, Michigan, that provide services to low-income residents.

Recent Capstone Projects



A Ride in the Right Direction: Mogo Expansion and Mobility Trends:

Drawing from case studies of other bike share systems, students identified short- and long-term recommendations on how MoGo, a nonprofit organization that operates the bike share system in central Detroit, can expand.



Green Collar Corridors: The City of Detroit asked students from Taubman College, the Ross School of Business, and Michigan Law to explore how to transform corridors that may not be suitable for traditional development into “Green Collar Corridors,” which would create a better living environment for Detroiters.



Marina District Riverfront Access Project: The Marina District in Detroit's unique mix of commercial, residential, industrial, and recreational land use gives it a distinct character, yet presents challenges. Thousands of vehicles traverse the district daily while historic assets and the river itself remain hidden. Students identified ways to create a more cohesive identity for the district and increase its connectivity.

MADE AT MICHIGAN, PLANNED FOR THE WORLD.





密西根制造, 为世界而建

Hecho en Michigan, diseñado para el mundo

मिशिगन में बनाया गया, दुनिया के लिए निर्माण किया गया

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