“Active mobility – walking or cycling – is the fundamental and most common form of human locomotion. It entails a paradigm shift from the “car-friendly city”... no longer simply a secured space of efficient transit, (but) a gathering place and a space for people to linger, a setting for urban life”

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, 2014

This studio will develop designs for built environments in support of local “active mobility”, primarily focused on urban, utility and recreational cycling in Eugene, at the intersection of social and environmental consciousness. We will learn about the history, connections, concepts and opportunities with local bicycle advocates, and advocacy and community organizations & entities.

We will begin with an exploration of the active mobility physical and social landscape between Eugene’s “ridges and rivers”, and along the active transportation networks that weave through it – from the top of Spencer’s Butte across to Skinner Butte, and as far as from downtown Springfield and out to Fern Ridge Lake. Students will have the opportunity to select from a range of sites in Eugene, and a range of programs to consider designing on their site... Perhaps design of a compact “hub” in the central city, with multiple functions and spaces, that acts as a structured gathering place for the active mobility community; or perhaps developing a series of smaller, but highly crafted, interventions of building/hardscape/landscape forms as wayfinding “nodes” along the network’s “spokes”.

The “hub” might be a cycling community center serving as a focal point for the more dispersed activities and pathways. Its program would include community meeting spaces, local bicycle history exhibition, bike shop/repair and/or incubator spaces, cafe/coffee shop, commuter bike storage and changing facilities. It will also have an extensive outdoor program of event and food truck spaces, and a traffic garden - a downscaled streetscape for learning safe bike riding in an urban setting. Some “node/spoke” examples might be bike rest stops, ride-meet shelters, or secure bike storage and changing/shower facilities at trailheads or commercial nodes, along the various paths. These can serve the active mobility community in daytimes and optimal weather, and possibly shelter communities in need at other times and/or in inclement weather.

Activities will include field trips (some optionally by bicycle!), stakeholder interactions, in-studio work and review, lectures and readings. Studio work will include ecological inventory and analysis, precedent studies, conceptual & schematic design, and development of sustainable energy, water and materials systems. Smaller scale projects will be required to be extensively detailed as to passive design, construction and structure, while larger projects will be required to be more fully developed as to passive & active energy, water, materials and structural strategies and systems.

*Pre-requisites for 484: ARCH 384
*Pre-requisites for 584: ARCH 682 or 683

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