This studio is a **community-engaged design** for a transitional housing that provides micro-housing units along with communal spaces.

At the core of this housing model is the **Conestoga Hut**, a 6’ x 10’ structure designed for minimal material use, cost-effectiveness, ease of construction, and suitability for the Pacific Northwest climate. Originating in Eugene just over a decade ago, the Conestoga Hut has spread throughout the Northwest. Eugene’s Community Supported Shelter (CSS) alone manages 14 sites, with up to 18 swelling units in each. Originally conceived to offer an affordable solution for sleeping space and secure storage, the Conestoga Hut’s interior remains unfurnished, with only a bed within its 60 square feet of indoor living space. This compact space necessitates careful design to cater to the diverse needs of its inhabitants.

Diverging from traditional shelters This transitional housing model is based on **intentional communities**. CSS defines the intentional community as “a group-living environment that is designed to foster cooperation, respect, and communication.” While prioritizing resident privacy within the micro-housing units, communal spaces like the community room and kitchen facilitate social interactions.

Collaborating with the CSS community, this studio aims to enhance the Conestoga Hut’s functionality as a multi-purpose space and explore personalization solutions. Working in groups, you will also design community space, kitchen, and other on-site facilities. The course involves site visit, research, interview, community discussion, teamwork, and standard studio activities. Depending on circumstances, there may be an opportunity to participate in constructing a prototype.