

# AGENT OF CHANGE: CAMPUS INTERVENTION

Strategies for IIT and its Neighborhood

PROFESSOR DIRK DENISON

## CAMPUS

The campus is a unique entity. It is comprised of many interdependent components, tied together by myriad systems, providing a stage for events and activities. Optimally, this network facilitates a rich and varied scholastic experience, allowing the campus to become a vehicle for intellectual and personal transformation.

## MASTER PLAN

A comprehensive master plan must consider all facets of the environment in order to create a truly rich and sustainable experience. Visible structures must be considered alongside non-visible structures and the systems that interconnect them. These components and connections must be considered from the point of view of the events and activities that they serve.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

Understanding context is a critical component to problem solving and program and design development. Neighborhoods are rich with historic and current contextual factors that can have significant impact on a site: access, zoning, landscape, infrastructure, open space, adjacencies, density, etc.

## PROJECT

Mies van der Rohe's historic master plan for the IIT campus was innovative in its response to its mid 20<sup>th</sup> century urban environment, an intervention that responded to the surrounding urban density with the insertion of park-like open space, into which he placed the university's functions. This planning approach had an immense impact on his generation and those to follow and established the IIT campus as a model for the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

With the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have welcomed new technologies, and as a result, a perhaps new attitude of the Millennial generation toward urban habitats and social realities that serve as a catalyst to greatly impact the future of development.

The IIT campus has great potential, situated within the historic Bronzeville neighborhood with proximity to downtown Chicago and Lake Michigan, to make a significant impact and contribution to the current urban development dialogue by re-examining and building upon Mies' master plan.

This studio will be a continuation of SANAA's exploration of the development of the IIT campus and their potential to impact the surrounding neighborhoods, which is being presented at the Chicago Architecture Biennial in September 2017. The design studio will be divided into three primary sections of study, beginning with researching case studies of urban intervention (i.e. - Mies' IIT campus, Guggenheim Bilbao) and analyzing the historical and current context of IIT's campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. Students will then be asked to make design proposals that explore new strategies for urban habitats and mixed-use programming – creating their own intervention within our immediate urban environment.

## **SEMESTER SCHEDULE**

Week 1: Introduction / Precedent Research (Individual)  
Week 2: Precedent Research (Individual)  
Week 3: Labor Day / Precedent Research (Individual)  
Week 4: Precedent Research (Individual)  
Week 5: Precedent Presentation (Individual) / Neighborhood Research + Campus Model (Studio)  
Week 6: Neighborhood Research + Campus Model (Studio)  
Week 7: Neighborhood Research + Campus Model (Studio)  
Week 8: Fall Break / Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 9: Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 10: Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 11: Development Proposal (Group) / Progress Presentation (Group)  
Week 12: Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 13: Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 14: Development Proposal (Group)  
Week 15: Final Review

## **DELIVERABLES**

Specific deliverables will be formally outlined and presented prior to each presentation.

## **STUDIO MEETINGS**

This studio will meet three times a week (M/W/F 2 - 6pm). Students will be expected to use time beyond scheduled class time for their research and assignment development.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Meetings with the professor outside of regularly scheduled class will be by appointment only. The time and location will be mutually agreed upon at the time of request.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class period and those class activities scheduled in addition to the regular studio hours, unless otherwise excused by the professor(s). If students discover they are unable to attend a scheduled class or activity, they are requested to inform the professor by email or phone beforehand.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Only letter grades will be given and these will be based on a curve. Grades will be issued for each project and will be based on the following criteria:

1. Conceptual sophistication and critical thinking
2. Sophistication and extent of project investigation and development
3. Sophistication and quality of presentation material (drawings and models)
4. Participation in class and critiques

A final letter grade will be compiled from all assignments. The school policy on grading is below:

- A. Excellent work that is on time and complete
- B. Above average work that is on time and complete
- C. Average work that is on time and complete
- D. Below average work, late work, and / or incomplete work
- F. Unacceptable work

Please refer to Graduate Bulletin for official IIT university grading policies.

It is expected that all students will put considerable time, thought, and effort into their work.

However, those factors do not of themselves guarantee any particular grade. On time and complete work is needed for a grade of A, B, or C, but timeliness and completeness alone do not constitute or guarantee a passing grade. When the work is on time and complete, quality in both thought and production are the primary considerations for the grade:

Excellent work – Demonstrates an ability to identify and develop a unique line of inquiry derived from, yet extending, the basic proposition of the assignment or course. Exceeds the expectations of the faculty and the assignment in the quality of thought and production.

Above average work – Excels in understanding and development of work relative to assignment scope. Demonstrates an ability to assess feedback and respond thoughtfully in the further development of the assignment.

Average work – Meets the basic expectations and requirements in terms of assignment scope as outlined in assignments or stated by the instructor.

Below average work – Does not meet all of the basic expectations and requirements. Does not consistently demonstrate a basic understanding of primary course objectives and concerns and / or an ability to respond to feedback and guidance by the instructor. Is inconsistent in its production and development, and is frequently late and / or incomplete.

Unacceptable work – Does not meet the majority of basic expectations and requirements. Seldom demonstrates a basic understanding of primary course objectives and concerns and / or ability to respond to feedback and guidance by the instructor. Is inconsistent in its production and development, and is consistently late and / or incomplete.

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Center for Disability Resources office.

The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is located in Life Sciences Room 218, telephone 312.567.5744 or [disabilities@iit.edu](mailto:disabilities@iit.edu).