

A d v a n c e d S t u d i o

ARC 560R-00860 and ARC 696-01390-00443

Fall 2012 (as of 24 October)

The Alley Regeneration Project



Instructors:

Steven Moore, Jimena Crus, Kristine Stiphany and Jane Winslow

Community Partners:

City of Austin Office of Sustainability, Austin Community Design and Development Center (ACDDC), and the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC)

1.0 Course Description

This studio derives from the Alley Flat Initiative (AFI) begun in 2005, which is a partnership of the UT Center for Sustainable Development (UTCSD), the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC) and the Austin Community Design and Development Center (ACDDC). The Alley Flat Initiative proposes a new sustainable, green affordable housing alternative for Austin. “Alley Flats” are small, detached residential units, accessed from Austin’s extensive network of underutilized alleyways. For a full description of AFI activities, see: <http://www.thealleyflatinitiative.org/>.

Short-Term Objective

The initial goal of the project was to build two prototype alley flats- one for each of two families in East Austin – that would showcase both the innovative design and environmental sustainability features of the alley flat designs. These prototypes were built to demonstrate how sustainable housing can support growing communities by being affordable and adaptable. The first of these prototypes celebrated its house warming with the community in June of 2008, and the second prototype was completed in August of 2009.

Long-Term Objective

The long-term objective of the Alley Flat Initiative is to create an adaptive and self-perpetuating delivery system for sustainable and affordable housing in Austin. The “delivery system” would include not only efficient housing designs constructed with sustainable technologies, but also innovative methods of financing and home ownership that benefit all neighborhoods in Austin.

The Alley Regeneration Project

In the fall of 2011 the City of Austin Office of Sustainability invited the AFI partners to participate in creating an urban sustainability demonstration project. In lieu of developing one alley flat at a time, Chief Sustainability Officer Lucia Athens envisioned redeveloping an entire alley, including not only several alley flats, but also new infrastructure that would serve as a model for sustainable urban redevelopment. In the spring of 2012 Prof. Steven Moore’s *Topics in Sustainable Development* interdisciplinary seminar, in collaboration with City Staff, conducted a survey of the Guadalupe neighborhood and a preliminary analysis of alley suitability. A preliminary alley selection was made in May 2012. See: <http://www.soa.utexas.edu/wordpress/alleyregen/>.

The purpose of this studio will be to work with the ARP partners, alley abutters, Austin Energy, Austin Public Works, and the Austin Water Utility to envision redevelopment of the selected alley. Redevelopment may include; several alley flats, a “community solar” installation, on-site water sequestration, stormwater mitigation, district heating and cooling, urban agriculture and solid waste systems. The emphasis of the studio will be on the community decision-making process rather than on individual design proposals. It is possible, however, that student work may influence final designs.

2.0 Tentative Studio Schedule (as of 04 September 2012)

	Date	Activity	Visitors	Reading
W	29 Aug	studio lottery		
F	31 Aug	introduction		
M	03 Sept	Labor Day, no class		
W	05 Sept	Site visit; 2:00	Mark Rogers	Brief History of EA 2009 TSD Report
F	07 Sept	Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studio as a community resource for decision-making Select teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Community Asset Mapping team 1 Alley Infrastructure team 3-4 Alley flat teams 		AFI Website, 2012 TSD Report
M	10 Sept	Seminar Team meetings Individual review of alley drawings		Wolch et al
W	12 Sept	Seminar Team meetings		ABCD
F	14 Sept			
M	17 Sept	Pin up final alley "drawings"	Jimena Cruz	
W	19 Sept	Studio		
Th	20 Sept	ACDDC ARP Workshop 1:30-3:30		
F	21 Sept	studio Team reviews	Emily Manderson	
M	24 Sept	studio Film viewing: <i>The Alley Flat Initiative</i>	Patrick Bresnan	
W	26 Sept	studio Team reviews		
F	28 Sept	Moore in NSF Workshop/work on your own		
M	01 Oct	In-house review	Michael Gatto Kalpana Sutaria Melisa Martinez Jimena Cruz Jane Winslow	
W	03 Oct	Studio Team reviews	Leslie Libby AE	
F	05 Oct	studio Team reviews		
Sat	06 Oct	1 st Community Meeting	2 students will attend	
M	08 Oct	studio Team reviews with CoA SPOCs		
W	10 Oct	studio Moore lecture to McCray seminar; 2:30-4:00		
F	12 Oct	studio In-house review	Sarah Dooling Jimena Cruz Kristine Stiphany Jane Winslow	
M	15 Oct	studio		
W	17 Oct	studio		

		Meet with McCray seminar; 2:30-4:00		
F	19 Oct	studio Team reviews		
M	22 Oct	studio Team reviews with CoA SPOCs		
W	24 Oct	studio		
F	26 Oct	studio AF submission to GNDC MLA meeting in our studio at 5:00 (go home)		
M	29 Oct	studio Moore in Garrison studio review, 3:00-5:00		
W	31 Oct	Studio Moore out 1:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00 select GNDC schemes for development 6:00 meet with Elizabeth and Phil Gfell at UT GOL 4.120		
F	02 Nov	Studio Moore at ACSA Conf. panel 1:30-3:30		
M	05 Nov	Studio		
W	07 Nov	Alley site presentation at One City Center 2:30-4:00 Steven, Jane, Nellie and Rob		
F	09 Nov	Studio		
M	12 Nov	Studio		
W	14 Nov	Studio		
F	16 Nov	Studio		
M	19 Nov	Studio Review in 4 th Fl Hallway		
W	21 Nov	Thanksgiving		
F		Thanksgiving		
M	26 Nov			
W	28 Nov			
F	30 Nov			
M	03 Dec			
W	05 Dec			
F	07 Dec	Last Class Day seminar— reflection on the reading Vs reality		
	14 Dec	FINAL REVIEW @ UTSOA (date may change)	Faculty Sarah Dooling Kristine Stiphany Jane Winslow Lucia Athens	

3.0 Exercises:

- Alley Drawings: The purpose of making these drawings is to document the physical character of the selected alley: what is beautiful, ugly, useful, or dangerous. What presence do existing structures and infrastructure contribute? What should be preserved? These are phenomenological questions that should be answered in an 18" x 24" format. Collage and mixed media may be used, but the human hand must guide the drawing.
- Alley Maps: The purpose of making these maps is to locate human and nonhuman assets within the community as well as "relevant social groups" outside the community who will influence decision-making. These are political questions that should be answered in 18" x 24" format using appropriate media.

4.0 Performance Evaluation:

Work for the semester will be based upon the scale outlined below. If any student wishes to review or protest a grade, such a review must be requested within one week of its issuance, after which no grade revisions shall be considered. It is up to the student to request interim evaluations from the instructor if you are concerned about your progress.

Establishing grades for projects of a creative nature is a more complex matter than grading in other academic areas. While each project contains certain quantifiable elements by which it may be evaluated, a significant portion of each grade is derived from a broader, more subjective set of issues. Individual projects will be weighted toward the project grade on the basis of the following criteria:

1/3 grasp (the ideas and understanding of the project at hand, combined with an appropriate process of inquiry),

1/3 process (the consistent and rigorous development and testing of ideas) and

1/3 resolution (the demonstration of competence, completeness, and finesse through representation).

Your work will be evaluated on its rigor and evolution over the semester.

grade descriptions

A : excellent work--Project surpasses expectations in terms of inventiveness, appropriateness, verbal and visual ability, conceptual rigor, craft, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. Project is complete on all levels.

B : good work--Project is thorough, well researched, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. Project is complete on all levels and demonstrates potential for excellence.

C : required work--Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class are not pursued with dedication or rigor. Project is incomplete in one or more areas.

D : poor work--Project is incomplete. Basic skills including graphic skills, model-making skills, verbal clarity or logic of presentation are not level-appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required design skill and knowledge base.

F : unacceptable work--Project is unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.

X : (excused incomplete)--Can be given only for legitimate reasons of illness or family emergency. Simply not completing work on time is not an adequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans' offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date. Studio work must be completed before the second week of the next design semester in which you are enrolling, according to School of Architecture policy.

ALL GRADES ARE SUBJECT TO DEDUCTIONS FOR ABSENCES, LATE WORK AND LATE ARRIVALS.

attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Participation is expected. Students with three (3) unexcused absences may be dropped from the course without further notice. The minimum penalty for more than three unexcused absences is a full letter drop in your final grade for the course. Please contact the instructor prior to class if you expect to be late or miss class.

A student who misses classes or other required activities for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties.

disabilities

Please notify your instructor of any adaptation you may require to accommodate a specific physical need. You will be requested to provide documentation to the Dean of Students' Office, in order that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through the Services for Students with Disabilities, also found via the web at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/>. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at

471-6259, 471-4641.

religious holy days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence

security, safety and the studio

The studio is an exceptional learning environment. Since it is a place for all, it necessitates the careful attention to the needs of everyone in it. Please see your instructor if there are any problems (music, visual pollution) that you are unable to resolve on your own. All spraying of fixative, spray paint or any other substance should be done in the shop. Security is a necessary component for a studio that is accessible to you and your colleagues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please be mindful not to admit any uninvited visitors and keep all exterior doors locked after hours.

Be smart. Be safe.

Woodshop access

Use of the SoA Woodshop will be required. If you now have shop privileges no further action is required. But if you don't OH 500 web-based training is required in addition to in-shop tool training.

6.0 Related Documents and Websites

Austin Watershed Protection specifications for making a rain garden:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/raingarden_factsheet.pdf.

Topics in Sustainable Development Report, 2012:

<http://www.soa.utexas.edu/wordpress/alleyregen/>.

Topics in Sustainable Development Report, 2009:

http://soa.utexas.edu/files/csd/CSD_AFI_2009.pdf.

Topics in Sustainable Development report, 2008:

http://soa.utexas.edu/files/csd/CSD_AFI_2008.pdf.

Rainwater harvesting.

<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>.

Low Impact Design LID

<http://lafoundation.org/research/landscape-performance-series/>.

Sites 2009 Guidelines and the Case for sustainable sites

<http://www.sustainablesites.org/report/>.

(new credits will be released September 26th for public comment)

University of Arkansas Low Impact Development design manual. ASLA winner for excellence

<http://uacdc.uark.edu/books.php>.

City of Austin Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM)

<http://www.amlegal.com/library/tx/austintech.shtml>

Section 1.6.7.\ (to be updated in October)

Alley Flat by Trinity White. A good example.

http://www.trinitywhite.com/#!_white-mischel-residence/.

7.0 Background bibliography

These books and articles are listed in order of relevance. Start with the top and work your way down the list:

Campbell, Scott 1996. "Green Cities, Growing Cities, Just Cities: Urban Planning and the Contradictions

- of Sustainable Development." *APA Journal* (Summer): 466-482.
- Farr, Douglas. 2008. *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature*. New York: Wiley.
- Guy, Simon and Graham Farmer. 2001. "Reinterpreting Sustainable Architecture: The Place of Technology." *Journal of Architectural Education* 54 (3):140-148.
- McDonough, William and Michael Braungart. 2002. *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*. New York: North Point Press.
- Oden, Michael. 2008. "The Forgotten E." In *Pragmatic Sustainability: Theoretical and Practical Tools*. Austin, TX: University of Texas.
- Moore, Steven A. 2007. *Alternative Routes to the Sustainable City: Austin, Curitiba and Frankfurt*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield

8.0 Miscellaneous

Office Hours:

If you have any concerns about your progress in the studio, or about related issues, please come and see me at:

4.134 Goldsmith Hall; TH 1:30-3:00 PM, or by appointment.

Tel., 512.471.0184 (office), e-mail (preferred method) samoore@austin.utexas.edu