**DESIGN CHALLENGE:**

All that is left of the once powerful USX Steel mill are four ore walls and the memories of the people who worked at that mill. Many of these people and their families continue to live in the adjacent neighborhoods and would like to have their memories of the mill preserved. Your design challenge is to incorporate the ½ mile long north ore walls into the plans of a new condominium complex and/or privately owned townhouses, provide public access to Lake Michigan for people living in the low income, established neighborhood on the west, and celebrate the potential of steel.

Currently people living to the west of the building site have no access to the lakefront. They are very concerned that the new development will continue to exclude them. McCaffery Interests, the developer of the 600 acre site, has announced that 20 percent of the housing units built on the site will be affordable housing. The area along the water slip, with the potential of providing private boat docks is unique in Chicago and will appeal to the high-end luxury market. The goal is to foster “social cohesion.” A symbiotic relationship must be formed with the economic diversity of the inhabitants, nature and the life forces of Lake Michigan. To do this, an understanding of the 21st century role of the architect in managing the complex interests of numerous groups and the environment will be a necessary exploration of the project.

**Research & Analysis** – (3 weeks = 20% of grade)

- Research, describe and analyze the building site conditions, engage in precedent analysis of proposed master plans and study housing complexes.

**Public Amenities** – (2 weeks = 20% of grade)

- Observation Platform or Tower - Located on the top of east end of the existing north ore wall.
- Water & Wind Experience - Provide the ability to touch the water and feel the prevailing winds.
- Public Restrooms - Permanent facilities near the east end of the ore wall, in the public park zone.

**Condominiums / Townhouses** – (3 weeks schematic design & 8 weeks design development = 60%)

- Provide for the Chicago condominium market in size and amenities

Students will work individually on the two design projects throughout the semester. Desk critiques will occur on a regular basis with groups of three students, in order to develop your critiquing skills.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Students will need to arrange their own transportation to Chicago’s far south side. Public transportation is difficult in this area. Field trips will be scheduled on one Friday and possibly one Sunday. Dates are currently being arranged and will be announced when classes begin. Students will be required to arrive at the designated site in Chicago by 10:00 and should plan on the field trips ending at 4:30.

1. USX Steel site and lakefront – The area is private property, fenced and has a security guard on duty. Site visit is contingent on developer providing permission.
2. New condominium buildings and sales showrooms (access might only be available on Sundays)