ARCH 574 The Urban Studio

ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, UIUC
Instructor: Kevin Hinders khinders@illinois.edu
Credit: 6 hours
Term Offered: Fall 2015
Location: 224 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago Illinois
Studio Days and Time: TWTh 1:30-6

PREMISE AND DESCRIPTION

Introduction
A strategic alliance between Academia and Practice has been established in downtown Chicago. This unique ‘intersection’ of collaboration has yielded a new program: The Chicago Studio of the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. This collaborative alliance resulted in a more meaningful project and a more significant experience for students and professionals compared to traditional studio approaches. The Program is located in a dedicated studio/seminar space with over 2000 square feet area on the 13th floor of the VOA, Associates, Incorporated's Chicago office located at 224 South Michigan Avenue.

Under the leadership of the Illinois School of Architecture (ISoA) Urbanism Program, the following have partnered with and played a significant role in the success of the Urban Studio and creating a ‘four-way intersection’ of collaboration:

City of Chicago Mayor’s Office and Department of Planning and Development
Because of the groundwork set by ISoA’s outreach, the ISoA Urbanism Program now undertakes urban design projects identified by the Mayor’s Office as applied research investigations. Students work with the Chicago Department of Planning and Development representative Brad McConnell to identify the city’s goals and objectives and then determine the strengths and weaknesses inherent in a location. Mr. McConnell serves as client for the semester while encouraging an investigation based upon the realities of land ownership and economics.

VOA Associates Incorporated, an International Architecture and Design Firm
The Urban Studio is hosted by VOA Associates Incorporated. VOA provides both a physical space for the program and professional expertise and informal consulting throughout the semester. VOA facilitates significant professional-student interaction in the form of reviews, informal critiques, charrettes of VOA’s professional projects, lunch time Q&A, etc. Sharing space and interacting informally is powerful for both students and employees. The experience makes VOA’s practice richer, creates opportunities for emerging professionals to understand the realities of our diverse profession and allows VOA to witness firsthand the talent and trends emerging from our universities.

Other Academic Institutions and Professional Involvement
The ISoA works with students and faculty from the Marshall Bennett Institute of Real Estate of Roosevelt University which assists the Urban Studio in gaining an understanding of the economic (pro forma, development strategies, etc.) realities of their design work while providing a worthwhile exercise for the Roosevelt Real Estate class. This academy-to-academy partnership is important for the students, the institutions, the city and the profession. in addition, a less formal relationship is being established with IIT and the studio of Chris Groesbeck.

Arch 574: The Urban Studio - The course will develop an urban design strategy/proposal for the area which seeks to harmonize with the existing structures of the city and anticipate the future needs of residents and visitors while providing a new neighborhood quality. Students will work with the Chicago Department Planning and Development, the Marshall Bennett Institute of Real Estate at Roosevelt University and Chicago area architects. This fall’s studio 2015 will work with the City of Chicago on a Transit Oriented Development which explores CTA infrastructure and surrounding properties as mutually agreed upon by the ISoA and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.