The City has always been an ever-changing reality where new strata are added to existing ones. The recycling of already urbanized land and implemented infrastructure seems, today more than ever, the prevailing trend for future urban development. Contextual reading and comprehensive timeline, being key factors in city recycling, will be the main focus of UAS-II.

Urban Architecture Studio (UAS) will test on Chicago the designing techniques and methodologies that have been a common practice in recent urban regeneration processes in European cities, thus challenging the European approach into the American context.

The studio will pay special attention to the processual dimension of Urban Architecture, both at City & Building scales. Students will draft, first, the Urban Layout for a program of mixed-use redevelopment –approx. scale 1:1000- and, second, they will develop at the architectural scale –approx. scale 1/200- a design for a relevant area of the urban design.

The site is located in Chicago, in the southeast sector of the city, between 18th and 24th Streets and Dan Ryan to Lake Shore Drive. The area constitutes an exciting field for city-regeneration, full of a diverse set of urban conditions: morphological re-addressment, infrastructural optimization and public space are essential components for the urban future of the area. They will be intensively explored during the semester.

UAS-II will use the most recent European experience in urban regeneration as a corpus from where to infer lessons on urban architecture. Abundant information about paradigmatic case studies will be distributed and analyzed in the frame of the studio. The semester will be structured in two phases, being the collective work an essential component of the Studio:

• Beginning to midterm review: Students will work in two-members teams and will draft the urban design layout for the site, paying special attention to contextual reading and to the phasing and timeline of implementation. Work on physical models and implementation diagrams will be especially encouraged.

• Midterm to final review: Each member of the group will develop individually one specific spot of the area. However, a good team understanding will remain relevant during this second stage. We will focus on the design strategies that, taken at architectural scale, have a close relation with the urban design layout. Ground floor plans and morphological meaning of architectural typology will be intensively discussed during this phase.
The main goal of the studio is to promote a comprehensive understanding of architecture in a wide range of scales. UAS claims for the capacity that Architecture has in designing not only buildings but also urban environments. Therefore, UAS provide the following apprenticeship:

**Generic competences**
- Methodology for a rigorous graphic analysis of given data.
- Skills for an intentional reading of the existing reality bringing analysis beyond description.
- Graphic skills for design and communication.

**Specific competences**
- Designing methodologies and techniques of architecture at urban scale.
- Technics of basic urban composition designing principles.
- Basic technical knowledge of landscape “as built” projects.
- Knowledge of basic urban regulation tools applied to the control of urban morphology.
- Basic culture of urban scale case-studies, giving special relevance to projects recently developed in Europe.


**Related ongoing projects and plans in the area**

**Mapping America (social data)**

**Interactive Map of Chicago (functional description)**
- [https://gisapps.cityofchicago.org/mapchicago/](https://gisapps.cityofchicago.org/mapchicago/)

**TIF (Tax Increment Financing Chicago, specific improvement projects in the area)**
- [http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/ChicagoTif/](http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/ChicagoTif/)
URBAN IS ARCHITECTURE

Three scales, one challenge: building the urban environment through architectural strategies

PRECEDENT 1: URBAN ARCHITECTURE STUDIO AT UPC_BARCELONATECH, 2010-12. 22@ DISTRICT
PRECEDE NT II: LA CLOTA REGENERATION PLAN, PROFESSIONAL COMMISSION (WWW.CSARQUITECTES.COM), BARCELONA, 2008-12
THE CITY IS A PROCESS
Towards an adaptive city, flexibility and urban regulations

TECHNOLOGY & TERRITORY
Water cycle, waste and energy management are core issues

COMPLEXITY ON SITE
Large scale infrastructure and environmental balance as guiding design principles

PRECEDENT III: EL PRAT EXTENSION, INTERNATIONAL RESTRICTED COMPETITION (WWW.CSARQUITECTES.COM), BARCELONA, 2010