Neighborhoods, Housing, and Health: Rethinking Development in Olivette Park and Winstanley Neighborhoods

Architectural Design ARCH 572: Behavior and Environment
Studio Critic: Lynne M. Dearborn Email: dearborn@illinois.edu

Overview: This studio will explore redevelopment of a Midwestern industrial city in the post-industrial age. Using two existing neighborhoods in the City of East St. Louis, Illinois, as the vehicle for investigation, students in this studio will engage with Lighthouse Housing Development Corporation and residents of Olivette Park and Winstanley Industry Park neighborhoods to re-envision these places as physically, socially and economically healthy communities developed around green infrastructure and healthy homes concepts. The primary questions this studio will explore:

1) What is the meaning of place among disadvantaged populations and how might it be leveraged to redevelop viable communities?
2) How might the environment of the neighborhood contribute to the physical, mental, social and economic health of a community?
3) What role might housing play in facilitating the physical, mental, social and economic health of residents?

Format: This studio will employ a collaborative participatory design process in working with our community partner and residents of the two target neighborhoods.

Products: The studio will be divided into 4 components that will each culminate with an opportunity for feedback from community residents and board members of Lighthouse.

1) Research and initial engagement with community residents (students work in teams)
2) Neighborhood redevelopment scenarios (students work in teams)
3) Sub-neighborhood strategies (students work in pairs)
4) Housing development proposals (students work individually but collaborate)

Fieldtrips: Fieldtrips to the neighborhoods and to work with neighborhood residents are an integral part of this studio experience in which all students will be expected to participate. Transportation and lodging will be provided. The following are the fieldtrip dates:
September 9 & 10 (Friday & Saturday) – in conjunction with first fall ESLARP outreach weekend
October 8 (Saturday) – Review with residents
November 5 (Saturday) – Review with residents

---

1 This studio will build on an existing series of research studies conducted in these two neighborhoods available at http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/view/neighborhood-environment-assessment-in-olivette-park.aspx and http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/view/academic-publications.aspx.