In November of 2018, a wildfire devastated the town of Paradise, destroying ninety percent of its buildings and killing 86 residents. Shortly thereafter, over the course of six months in early 2019, two third-year design studios in Cal Poly’s Architecture program worked to develop ideas to rebuild Paradise in the wake of the fire.

The theme of the studios’ work was resiliency. One aspect of this was physical safety: how to rebuild in such a way so as to protect the town against future conflagrations. At the same time, the students considered resiliency in other terms, including the Paradise’s economy, connection to nature, and sense of community.

This poster describes the progression of the students’ work over the six months - from initial research and site visits, to meetings with town residents and other stakeholders to garner input and feedback, and finally, to the development and presentation of new town plans and buildings.

**Goals**

- Reconnect Nature
- Rethink Mobility
- Rethink Town Living
- Rethink Infrastructure
- Reunite Community
- Redefine Economy

In May, the students continued to refine their building designs in terms of technical systems but also in terms of fitting them into an overall vision for the town’s future.

In April, the students returned to Paradise to make public presentations of their preliminary town planning ideas and building designs. These were opportunities for the residents of Paradise to critique the designs. In the process, the students began outlining the overarching goals that might best serve the community.

In late May and early June, the students wrapped up their projects, making final presentations in Paradise and Chico. They also made presentations to California state officials in Sacramento, as well as to Cal Poly officials and advisors, in each case advocating support for redeveloping Paradise in ways that will sustain it in the future.