

## Learning from California: Highlights from CRP Studios 2016/2017 AY

*These are some highlights of the studio projects from both BSCR and MCRP programs during the 2016-17 academic year. The studios are fundamental in the learn-by-doing pedagogy embraced by the department, and help shaping students into professionals that are fully engaged with their communities.*

**Undergraduate Studio:** CRP 201 Basic Graphic Skills (Fall 2016). Professors Vicente del Rio and Beate Von Bishopink.

This studio is responsible to provide students with basic graphic communication skills and urban design concepts. Students learn freehand and technical drawing including perspectives, site analysis and design through the developing a concept for the redevelopment of a parking lot in downtown San Luis Obispo. They are also required to fill in a sketch book with a series of on-site drawings and 10-minute sketches. They are also introduced to InDesign and Photoshop, and have to mount a final portfolio of their major work in the quarter.



*Park proposal by Sam Cunningham, CRP 201; Fall 2016.*

**Undergraduate Studio:** CRP 202 Urban Design Studio I (Winter 2017). Professors Amir Hajrasuliha and Beate Von Bishopink.

In this studio students expand their design skills and their understanding of the urban design process. Working in teams of two, they develop a project for a one-two block area of San Luis Obispo. Assignments reflect the phases of a design process (analysis, conceptual development, final design) and lead to chapters of a final professional-looking report. Students are introduced to AutoCAD and SketchUp, and to functional, regulatory, economic, and social factors. This quarter they developed ideas for the redevelopment of properties composing two corners at the intersection of Nipomo and Higuera streets in downtown San Luis Obispo.



*Mixed-use project for the corner of Higuera and Nipomo streets. A. Duran, A. Alvarez & I. McCarvilles, CRP 202; Winter 2017.*

**Undergraduate Studio:** CRP 203 Urban Design Studio II (Spring 2017). Professors Vicente del Rio and Beate Von Bishopink.

The studio builds on the knowledge acquired in CRP 201 and 202, advancing students understanding of the planning process, and of graphic, written, and verbal communication. Working in teams, students refine their skills in three-dimensional spatial design, program development, and computer applications. Students focus on problem solving and on thinking critically. This year the studio focused on issues of post-industrial development and waterfront development by developing ideas for the mixed-use redevelopment of a large parking lot in Avila Beach's downtown that resulted from the remediation of a large oil spill.



*Avila La Vida, mixed-use project for Avila Beach by E. Escher, J. Cumberberry & V. Hoyos, CRP 203; Spring 2016.*

**Undergraduate Studio:** CRP 341 Urban Design Studio III (Fall 2017). Professors Hemalata Dandekar and Vicente del Rio.

Partnering with the City of Paso Robles, Community Development Department, ten student teams developed urban design visions for six focus areas of public and private lands sandwiched between the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Highway 101 and the Salinas River corridor. The designs sought to create stronger links to the downtown and the rest of the city, attract motorists and tourists, enhance the city's identity, and create walkable and memorable environments. The proposals enhanced and added to the existing land uses to realize the area's full economic potential, and based development on catalytic sites. The final concepts were presented to the Planning Commission in PowerPoint and posters, and detailed in a final report. (See the article on this project by V. del Rio and H. Dandekar in this issue of FOCUS)



Proposed development scenario for the riverside area, Paso Robles. H. McCoy, I. Connolly and M. Romagnoli; Fall 2016.

**Graduate Studio:** CRP 553 Project Planning Lab (Spring 2017). Professor Hemalata Dandekar.

Old Town Newark Urban Design and Development Plan

Through a partnership with the City Of Newark's Planning Department, the MCRP first year students developed concept plans to revitalize Old Town, the city's historic center, into a vibrant mixed-use area. Field studies, interviews and surveys of community members and businesses informed preliminary concepts around three themes: the historic character of the site; the architectural styles that complemented existing buildings; and housing optimization. Thornton Avenue, the main street, was divided into five discrete segments which focused on: the development of a rich and diverse housing mix, a central plaza and performance space for community gatherings to function as the center of Old Town; surrounding commercial retail with housing above; a Hispanic themed Mercado complex; an upscale residential block; and, the development of a civic area featuring city amenities such as a library, outdoor recreational spaces, patios and dining areas. (See the article on this project by H. Dandekar, D. Christie and G. Ward in this issue of FOCUS)



Proposed Old Town Square as seen from a residential balcony, Newark; CRP 553, Spring 2017.

**Graduate Studio:** CRP 552/554 Planning Studio (Fall 2016 & Winter 2017). Professor Cornelius Nuworsoo.

City of Lemoore General Plan Update

Working for the City of Lemoore, this two-quarters long MCRP studio prepared a comprehensive revision the city's decade-old General Plan. Collaborating with residents, stakeholders, and city leaders, the studio formulated a development scenario to accommodate aspirations for growth in population, housing, and jobs by 2040. After comprehensive community surveys, SWOT analysis, as well as public feedback, students developed a General Plan with long-term goals, objectives, polices, and programs to inform future development on twelve Elements: Land Use; Circulation; Conservation; Housing; Economic Development; Public Facilities; Safety; Health; Open Space; Noise; Community Design; and Air Quality. The preferred growth scenario promotes vibrant and attractive neighborhoods, preserves the City's character, provides an adequate and diverse supply of housing, and increases job opportunities. As shown in the Proposed Land Use Map below, development is focused in seven key areas: (1) Northwest Lemoore; (2) Northeast Lemoore; (3) West Hills College area; (4) the Nest; (5) Downtown; (6) the Canal; and (7) New Heights Park. Development within these areas is centered on: (a) neighborhood commercial centers to create compact, walkable, and accessible neighborhoods; and (b) major employment locations to boost economic development.

