

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

University of Oregon

Site Planning and Design Studio, Spring 2018

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YOSEMITE VILLAGE, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA



THERE IS A REQUIRED STUDIO FIELD TRIP PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TERM (March 26-30, 2018)

MORE INFORMATION BELOW UNDER "SITE VISIT"

INTRODUCTION

This studio addresses design issues – both opportunities and challenges - at Yosemite Village in the heart of Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, California. The goals of the studio are to provide design vision, concepts and specific design proposals to NPS to advance visitor orientation, way-finding, and view shed management while respecting and honoring the character-defining features of this significant cultural landscape in the center of one of America's iconic national parks. We will work very closely with NPS personnel from the park and the regional office to ensure that our work supports the mission of the NPS while providing new and innovative ideas.

BACKGROUND

Legislation setting aside the Yosemite Valley for public use was signed by President Lincoln in 1864. The Valley was first managed by the State of California. Yosemite National Park was created in 1890 and the Valley was returned to federal management in 1906. Today, Yosemite is among the most visited and beloved national parks in the country, with over 5 million visitors per year. The core of the park is Yosemite Valley, and Yosemite Village is the center of visitor support and services.

While this is a beautiful and enrapturing landscapes, it is not without its challenges. It is a complex site, with many large and small design opportunities. The park has specifically requested that we work with staff to identify those opportunities and challenges. The studio will provide creative design solutions, while understanding, respecting and engaging the historic characteristics and features of this internationally famous cultural landscape.

In many ways, that is our challenge: how do we envision design proposals that speak to the 21st century, while engaging the history of this significant and engaging multi-layered landscape, one that has been shaped by people who called this place home for centuries.



STUDIO PROGRAM

This studio will address key and important activities, in close cooperation with the National Park Service.

1. We will learn how to document, record and understand cultural landscapes, with Yosemite Village as our case study. This work will conform to established NPS cultural landscape guidelines, and will add to the baseline inventory of character-defining features that contribute to the significance of this cultural landscape. These will be small group projects.

2. We will develop detailed design proposals to advance visitor orientation and way-finding, and view shed management within Yosemite Village. These will be individual design projects. Additional information will be discussed during the field visit in March.

While our design efforts will be focused on Yosemite Village, our investigations and analysis will include the context of the valley and the park.

In addition, the studio will consider and include: NPS policies, procedures and guidelines; design precedents, both within and outside of the parks; cultural and ecological contexts at multiple scales; various materials; appropriate modes of representation and presentation; and design at multiple scales.

3. **We will present this work in both digital and analog formats, including a booklet publication at the end of the term.**



STUDIO GOALS

The studio has three broad goals:

1. Understand the current landscape conditions and resources at Yosemite Village. The studio will include detailed instruction on established NPS techniques and tools to understand and document cultural landscapes.
2. Develop both broad visions and detailed plans for sensitive and appropriate design at this important cultural landscape, with particular respect for its significant history and continued use by NPS personnel and millions of visitors each year.
3. Closely coordinate these efforts with our project partners in the National Park Service.



STUDIO PARTNERSHIP

This studio is directly supported by the National Park Service, Pacific West Region and Yosemite National Park. We will meet and work closely with NPS staff. These partners include Scott Carpenter, Program Manager for Cultural Resources, Yosemite National Park; Kimball Koch, Historic Preservation Officer, Yosemite National Park; and Vida Germano, Cultural Landscapes Program Coordinator, Pacific West Region. Other NPS personnel will join in our discussions and assist in this project.

SITE VISIT

There is a **required** site visit, March 26-30, 2018.

We will fly from Eugene to San Francisco, then drive to Yosemite National Park.

Support from NPS will cover all travel, lodging and meals for this trip. We will be staying at lodging in Yosemite Valley. Details will be provided prior to the trip. NPS funding also includes an allowance to support other studio costs.

MIDTERM REVIEW

The midterm review for the studio will be on **April 25, 2018**. NPS staff will join us in Eugene for this review.

RESOURCES

All studio documents and resources including schedule, maps, planning documents and important websites will be posted to the course folder on the AAA Server.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the usual requirements of studio participation and timely project completion, the field trip to the site is required. Studio schedule and format for submission of final work will be discussed in studio. All work will be submitted in both digital and analog formats.

This is a rare opportunity to directly impact the future of an iconic park in the National Park System, and develop skills in cultural landscape work and site design. The studio requires a trip to the site during spring break, and **all expenses will be covered by the National Park Service**.

Once plane tickets are purchased they cannot be refunded, so please consider this requirement very carefully before registering for this studio.

For general information on Yosemite National Park:
<https://www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT STATEMENT

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24- hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

DIVERSITY

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities. We will value each class member's experiences and contributions and communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Landscape Architecture at 541.346.3634 or at landarch@uoregon.edu. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

Office of Equity and Inclusion

1 Johnson Hall

541.346.3175

<http://oied.uoregon.edu>

Center on Diversity and Community

54 Susan Campbell Hall

541.346.3212

<http://codac.uoregon.edu>

Bias Response Team

164 Oregon Hall

541.346.1134

brt@uoregon.edu

<http://bias.uoregon.edu>

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In Case of Emergency CALL 911.

In case of non-emergency assistance: Call the UO Police Department at 541.346.2919

Be sure your cell phone is set up to receive UO Alert text messages: 1) Login to DuckWeb, 2) Click on the "Personal Information" menu, and 3) Click on "Enter/Update Emergency Alert Phone." More information on emergency preparedness can be found online: emc.uoregon.edu/content/resources-students