



Oregon Historical Society photo shows children refugees from Vanport after devastating 1948 flood.

LA 589: Site Planning and Design, Oregon Sequence (Vanport)

Winter 2021

Time: MWF, 1:00PM to 5:00PM

Location: Online (Zoom/Canvas) instruction

Instructor: [David Buckley Borden](#) (he/him/his)
Lawrence Hall, Room 381
dborden4@uoregon.edu

Research Assistant: NA

Course Prerequisites: LA 362, LA 366, LA 439

Credits: 6

The LA 589 studio is required for BLA and MLA (First Professional MLA only) students.

Consistent with all Department of Landscape Architecture studios, this studio is graded **Pass/No Pass**.

Studio Overview

This is the second studio in the 2020-21 Oregon Sequence, a three-term sequence spanning the 4/589 landscape architecture studio series. The studio builds off the design-research and analysis from the previous Fall Oregon Sequence to focus on site design within the context of Vanport. The coursework will interrogate the site's ecological and cultural histories in the context of past, current, and speculative land use. The complex layers of Vanport's histories, networks, developments, and social fabric will drive the overall site design process and outcome. The studio will demand a critical approach to design development in an effort to reconcile environmental constraints, cultural visions, as well as students' personal interests and values. The creative process will explore a variety of iterative digital and analog representation methods and workflows in order to develop a site concept, grounded site design, articulated design intention, and effective narrative.



Oregon Historical Society photo of Vanport after 1948 flood.

Oregon Sequence (Vanport) Context

Designed to build upon the design skills and techniques learned in the LA 289 and LA 4/539 series and to prepare students for the advanced LA 4/594 studio as well as their capstone projects, the Oregon Sequence explores a thematic and/or geographic focus for an academic year across a breadth of scales, allowing the student to explore each scale in depth over the course of a quarter. The Winter studio focuses on site planning and the Spring studio focuses on design detailing. Each studio within the Oregon Sequence will build upon the work in the previous studio. Students are not required to take the Fall Oregon Sequence studio in order to take the Winter Oregon Sequence studio.

The 2020-21 focus of the studio is Vanport, a complex site composed of intersecting cultural and environmental histories. Formerly wetlands along the Columbia River, Vanport was a “company town” for the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company during World War II and housed a significant percentage of Portland’s African American population. The community was destroyed in the 1948 Vanport Flood, and is now primarily occupied by Heron Lakes Golf Club and Portland International Raceway.

Studio Format

The studio format will be organized around rigorous project work, one-on-one critiques, pin-ups, peer reviews, guided class discussions, presentations, and guest lectures actively engaged in site design as part of their creative practice.

The studio will be organized around a variety of hands-on design methods that include the creation of drawings, models, and other intentional creative methods for concept development, community engagement, and final design proposal.

Beyond class meetings, students will be required to read selected readings. Optional readings are highly encouraged. Outside of studio time, students are expected to complete exercises, develop drawings for intermediate submissions, and prepare for the reviews.

The studio will generally follow a regular schedule as follows.

- Monday: lecture and/or workshop
- Wednesday: desk critique and discussion
- Friday: virtual pin-up and reviews and weekly submission of week’s assignments