

LA

Fall 2022



Lookout Landscape Studio at HJA Experimental Forest

Fall 2022

LA 4/589

Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. 1-5pm

Location: Room TBD

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

Research Assistant: NA

Curricular Context: Required studio in the BLA and MLA degree programs

Studio Prerequisites: Successful completion of LA 4/539 studios or the equivalent (upon approval by instructor).

Office Hours. Immediately following studio on Mondays and Wednesdays, or by appointment.

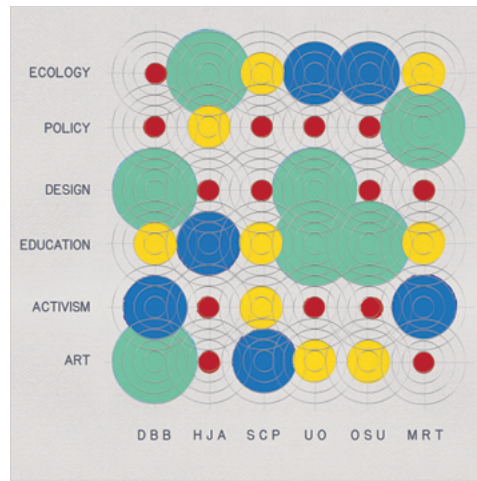
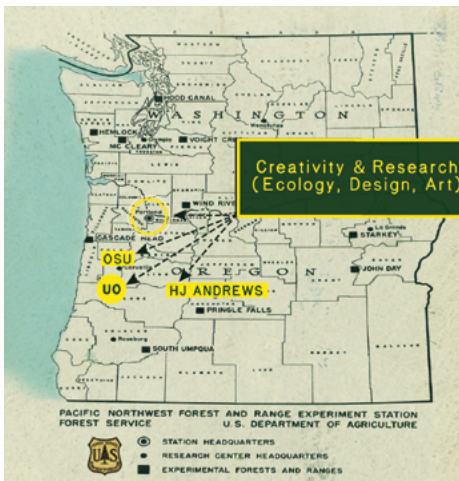
Credits: 6

Mid-term and Final Review: TBD

Studio Brief:

This design-research studio is organized around research methods that actively employ solution-driven creative workflows within a rigorous design process. Students will learn a variety of “research through design skills that will be transferable to a range of landscape architecture applications and scales. Maker-based workflows will be central to the studio creative process throughout the term. The site, inspiration, and initial community partner for the studio will be the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest (HJA) in Blue River, OR.

A follow-up LA 4/589 Winter 2023 term studio will focus on applying student design-research knowledge to a site-design problem at one of several HJA partner sites.



HJA Design Research Drawings by DBB: Context map, inventory diagram as stakeholder research tool, and sci-comm installation concept drawing as community outreach (left to right).

Studio Description

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Students will select their own design research topics in response to the place, research, and community of the HJA. Potential topics of inquiry include forest management, watershed stewardship, carbon dynamics, and natural and man-made disturbances, including wildfires. A list of HJA research programs can be found [here](#). Building off the HJA’s research efforts, successful studio projects will articulate pressing environmental challenges of the Anthropocene, in terms of both design-research and a compelling design-narrative. Final studio projects will vary in response to student interests, aptitudes, and goals, and will likely manifest in a variety of design products ranging from spatial maps, thematic diagramming, environmental systems communication, problem-space articulation, and other place-based narrative-driven products.

This studio will build student capacity for critical design-thinking skills in terms of landscape analysis, mapping, narrative, and research-through-design. Design-research methods will be incorporated in all stages of the studio process and include both indirect (literature, case study, and precedent review) and direct methods of design inquiry. Direct design research will include traditional landscape inventory, mapping, and analysis, but also employ research tools to drive concept generation. The studio’s process aims to expose students to a diversity of design research approaches, and includes artistic, adaptive, analytical, and systematic methods. The studio will embrace an iterative maker-based approach throughout the entire course of the studio. Given the intellectual demands, and physical making process (wood shop time), this studio will be very time-intensive.

Context

The [HJ Andrews Experimental Forest](#) (HJA) is a landscape of inquiry. Its mission is to support research on forests, streams, and watersheds, and to foster collaboration among ecosystem science, education, natural resource management, and the humanities.

The HJA is a center for ecosystem research in the Pacific Northwest. The research program has its roots in the establishment of the HJA in 1948 by the US Forest Service. The Andrews Forest became a charter member of the National Science Foundation's Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program in 1980. Long-term measurement programs continued on experimental sites and watersheds with a focus on questions about climate, streamflow, water quality, vegetation succession, biogeochemical cycling, and effects of forest management.

HJA research is ongoing, and continues to reveal surprising and important information relative to landscape architects and other allied professions proactively engaged in environmental stewardship.

Also relative to the design research studio is the [Long-Term Ecological Reflections \(LTEReflections\)](#) project, an arts and humanities program that takes place at the HJA and will continue for 200 years (2003 to 2203). The mission of the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program is to bring together writers, humanists, artists, and scientists to create a living, growing record of how we understand the forest and the relation of people to the forest, as that understanding and forest both change over time.



HJ Andrews Experimental Forest Research: landslide simulation flume (top), stream gauge (middle), and heavily instrumented old growth tree (bottom).



Learning Objectives

By the end of this design-research studio, you should be able to demonstrate the following:

- An understanding and working knowledge of design-research methods and practices in transforming environmental research into an articulated design narrative;
- Knowledge of research-by-design methods including both direct and indirect modes of practice, including experimental workflows in both digital and analog media;
- The ability to clarify communicate your design-research in support of your final design project through effective graphic communication and written narrative;
- Proficiency in designing in a professional setting, including project organization, workflow, file preparation, and final presentation of a professional quality research-driven design project;
- Ability to balance the demands of a rigorous design-research project while simultaneously enjoying the creative process; specifically, have fun.

Communication

Our class will communicate through our Canvas site. Announcements and emails are archived there and automatically forwarded to your UO email, and can even reach you by text. Check and adjust your settings under Account > Notifications. Canvas will also be the go-to platform to access Zoom links to “go to studio” and schedule “live” office hours. Please let me know if scheduled office hours do not work for you and we will schedule another time.

As we have not thoroughly tested the remote learning format at this scale, we may face technical difficulties or capacity issues. Some of these challenges may include broadband speed at our respective homes, server capacity issues, or caretaking responsibilities that come with working from home. These should not be an impediment to communicate: if you are not able to join a call or send an email. I am open to modifying our guidelines for remote participation in conversation.

For more details about communication and participation, please refer to the following guidelines for remote participation.



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 from HJA, Harvard Research Forest, UW, Rios, and other professionals actively engaged in design research as part of their creative practice.

The studio will be organized around a variety of hands-on design research methods that include the creation of drawings, models, and props, as intentional research methods for concept development, community engagement, and design-research narrative

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 work for intermediate submissions, and prepare for reviews .

The studio will generally follow a regular schedule as follows.

- Monday: lecture and or workshop
- Wednesday: desk critique and discussion
- Friday: pin-up and reviews

Occasional guest lecturers will be scheduled as their professional calendars permit.

Zoom links to studio are available on Canvas and through an Outlook calendar invite. The same link will be reused for the duration of the term.

Please refer to the Canvas for course schedule, agendas and assignments.