HJA Experimental Forest Studio, Part II

LA 4/589,Winter 2024

Credits: 6

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

Location: LA 308

Instructor: David Buckley Borden (he/him/his)
dborden4@uoregon.edu

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

Studio Prerequisites: Successful completion of fall 2023 LA 4/589 HJA studio or the equivalent (upon approval by instructor).

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

Mid-term and Final Review: TBD

Studio Brief: This studio is the follow-up to the LA 4/589 Fall 2023 term studio and is focused on applying student design-research knowledge and make-based design process skills to site-design in the PNW forests. The inspiration, and community partner for the studio will be the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest (HJA) and OSU College of Forestry. This landscape architecture sit-design studio is organized around design methods that actively employ solution-driven creative workflows within a rigorous site design process. Students' schematic site designs will respond to, communicate, represent, note, express, and/or measure an ecological system of their choice. A light footprint, limited material use, and focused educational program will be required of all student site proposals. Students will learn a variety of site design skills that will be transferable to a range of design applications. Model-shop and maker-based workflows will be central to the studio's **time intensive** creative process throughout the term.

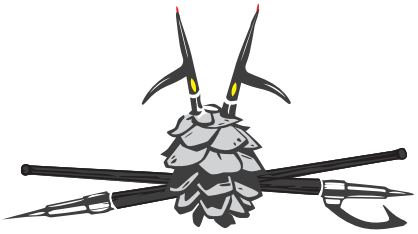
Studio Description
This site design studio is organized around design methods that actively employ maker-based creative workflows for environmental educational goal within a program-driven framework. Students will learn a variety of spatial site design skills that will be transferable to a range of landscape architecture applications and scales. The inspiration, and initial community partner for the studio will be the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest (HJA) in Blue River, OR. This studio will explore the use of site design and design-narrative development to communicate students' ecological systems research from the prior fall 2023 studio.

Students will continue with systems research topics in response to the place, research, and community of the HJA. Final site design proposals will vary in response to student interests, aptitudes, and goals, and will likely manifest in a variety of schematic site design products ranging from spatial maps, concept diagramming, environmental systems communication, problem-space articulation, and other site-based narrative-driven products such as section, plan, and site model. The studio's process aims to expose students to a diversity of site design 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**.

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

- An understanding and working knowledge of site design methods and practices in transforming environmental research into an articulated site design proposal;
- Knowledge of spatial design development through experimental workflows in both digital and analog media;
- The ability to clarify communicate your design concepts in support of your final schematic 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.



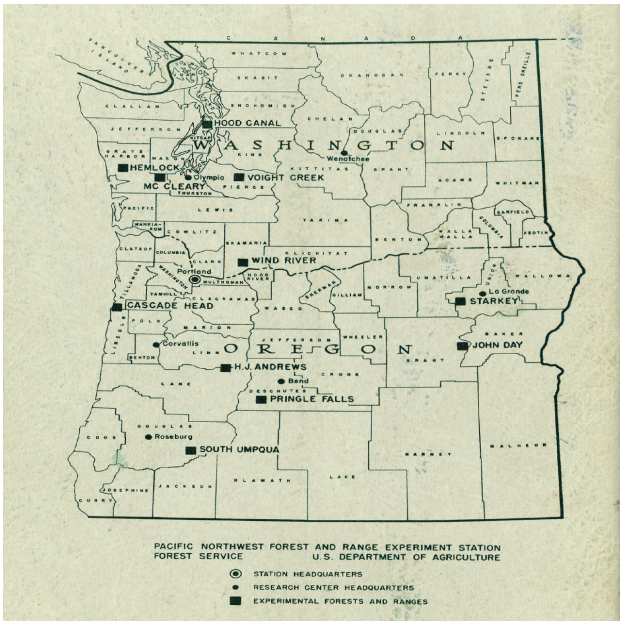
Context

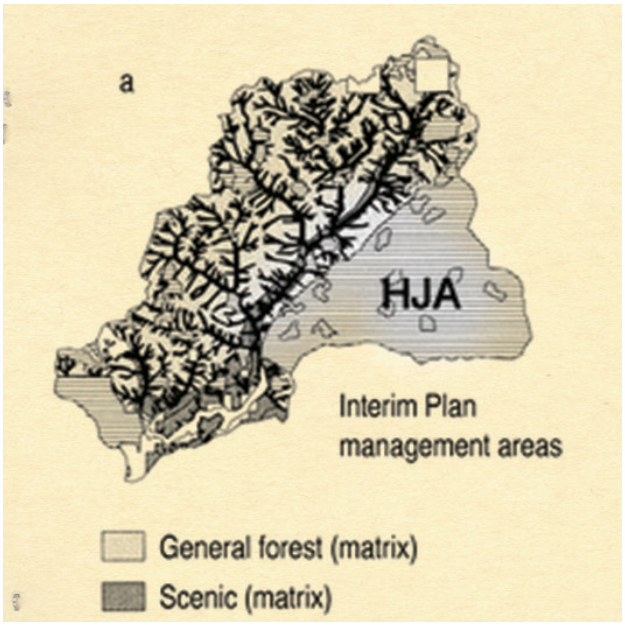
The HJ Andrews Experimental Forest (HJA) is a landscape of inquiry. Its mission is to support research on forests, streams, and watersheds, and to foster collaboration among ecosystem science, education, natural resource management, and the humanities.

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).