A studio focused around an affordable field study visit to London and an exploratory design project.

I Summary
This summer the School of Architecture is offering an advanced studio and planning practicum concurrent with a traveling, design based seminar. Students may take either the studio (6 credit hours), or a practicum (6 credit hours), and/or the seminar (3 credit hours). An optional field visit to London, supported by a Mebane scholarship, will take place in late June.

II Timetable
The studio and seminar will commence on the 17th of May with introductory research and design study, followed by a voluntary fieldtrip from the June 17th to June 22nd, or alternative dates to be arranged. For those undertaking the studio, the first interim review of the final design will take place in London during the fieldwork, and final review presentation will be in Austin on August 1st.

Visit to London:
1) Examines recent design projects related to interiors, new buildings, urban landscapes, city design, and urban conservation;
2) Carries out office visits to leading design and planning practices in the city. The project will work in association with a London practice.
3) Undertakes fieldwork for the design project, -a live project selected to examine sustainable practices in landscape architecture, architecture, and urban design. A particular emphasis will be placed upon design within an inner city context; the roles of public place, design of low carbon footprint housing environments; the design of environments that promote health and wellbeing.

III The Design Project
Aims to: carry out comprehensive site survey work; establish values in design through criteria and diagrams; evolve scenarios of future outcomes as integral to the design process; develop a preferred design that meets stated criteria; and addresses a competition format graphic presentation.
The subject matter is a live project in central London for a problematic, dysfunction context involving vacant sites, historic fabric, transit, problems of mobility, and lack of sense of place, or green infrastructure.
The studio will work in teams, but include individual projects.

The studio is open to students from Architecture, Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design, and Community and Regional Planning. It begins in Austin followed by a field visit to London, with a daily pattern of visits and project work. The studio will then be completed in Austin.

IV Studio Outcomes

The studio aims to offer a rigorous introduction to vocabularies, case studies, and design preferences for sustainable environments. It offers a platform to address design within an inner city context, and to undertake a competition form presentation. Students will begin with research and design development, followed by site visits in teams, building a vocabulary of information related to location and sustainable design practices. This then leads to individual work where more detailed design understanding for architecture, urban landscape architecture, or planning can be developed. As the Planning Practicum the course will serve as an intensive, and applied research exercise where students apply the skills they have learned to a real-world planning problem in an urban setting.

Course Objectives:
- understand the roles and potential of each discipline in an urban environment through redevelopment;
- be able to draw upon a range of tools and approaches useful in interdisciplinary work
- be familiar with important cases in design through design collaboration;
- be able to design a redevelopment strategy, through a critical process of analysis and case study evaluation
- have a grasp of basic skills in graphic communication for the design process

V Example Projects

Architecture and Interiors projects emerging from the team design could include: urban housing; a mixed-use building; a retail /market place; a center for the arts, adaptive re-use of historic fabric.

Landscape architecture projects emerging from the team design could include: a green street strategy; ecology park; water harvesting/retention landscape; a “greening the city” strategy.

Planning projects include: development of community support structures; an urban sustainable housing proposal; a “greening” the city strategy; the development of 3D animation and communication graphics, an urban conservation strategy.

Historic Preservation projects include: an adaptive building reuse; inventory and proposals for historic buildings and places, and proposal for a conservation area.
VI Costs

Students may apply for a $1,500 Mebane scholarship, which is expected to cover air travel. The hotel in London and related London expenses will cost approximately $650 for bed and breakfast during the time of the study visit. Students with financial need may apply for a small fellowship.

VII Grading Policy

A/A-: excellent
Project surpasses expectations in terms of inventiveness, appropriateness, verbal and visual ability, conceptual rigor, craft, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. The work submitted exceeds required drawings and models.

B+/B-/B: above average
Project is thorough, well researched, diligently pursued, and successfully executed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. The work demonstrates potential for excellence and is complete.

C+/C: average
Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class are not pursued with dedication or rigor. The work is nearly complete.

C-/D+/D/D-: below average
Basic skills including graphic skills, model-making skills, verbal clarity or logic of presentation are not level appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required design skill and knowledge base. The work is incomplete.

F: failure
Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned with excessive unexcused absences.

VIII Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Participation is expected. The minimum penalty for more than three unexcused absences is a full letter drop in your final grade for the course. Please contact the instructor prior to class if you expect to be late or miss class.

It is important that you respond stating your interest without delay so that hotel space can be reserved. Contact can be made with Simon Atkinson at simonatkinson@austin.utexas.edu, or
Edna Ledesma at ednalandesma@utexas.edu and we can also arrange to meet to discuss the seminar further.

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.