PUARL has been approached by representatives of the Port of The Dalles to investigate their traditional downtown with the goals of attracting new growth and development while bringing it into the 21st century in terms of architecture and urban design. Key questions include how to make the old downtown attractive and viable enough so that people want to spend time there, live and work there, and how to make it a comfortable place for inhabitants and visitors alike.

In addition, the citizens of The Dalles are concerned with an overall developmental perspective that includes economic prosperity, sustainability, urban landscape issues such as street facades, signage, connection to the riverfront, citizen participation, and pattern development, to name a few.

Following a Spring 2013 PUARL research seminar, this Fall Studio will start to make actual urban architecture and urban design proposals in response to the needs of The Dalles.

This studio will entail:

- Several visits to The Dalles for basic analysis, verification and design hypotheses
- Downtown diagnosis (based on GIS study, feeling maps, sketches, drawings)
- Development of overall urban compositional plans and focus on problem areas
- Analysis of the physical and social situation of The Dalles in detail (verbal and drawings)
- Build a physical urban design model at scale 1/32 or 1/20 (group work)
- Design of general urban design plans for the downtown/river district and individual architectural design projects for chosen sites (sketches, models, drawings)
- Each student will carry out an individual building design with plenty of sketches, drawings and an architectural model

Weekly Schedule (tentative):
M: Pin-ups and reviews of urban design/architectural proposals
W: Crits
F: Design work, drawing, topical discussion

Hajo Neis, June 2013