This seminar can help satisfy advanced-study cluster requirements in urban design and urban sustainability and other areas such as historic preservation, depending on the individual research project that is carried out.

Research Seminar:
MAKERS IN CITIES: THE ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM OF PRODUCTION

Contemporary cities like London, Portland, San Francisco, New York and many others are evolving to recognize the renewed importance of production of various kinds in the economy and social life of the city. Warehouses and factories are being repurposed, old buildings are being used in ad-hoc ways, and new building types are emerging to accommodate local production, which may be an alternative to global manufacturing that happens tens of thousands of miles away. These changes have implications in urban design and urban sustainability, and can redefine what cities are and how people live in them.

Seminar participants will contribute to the instructor’s current research on this topic by carrying out focused research projects. The instructor has begun work on a book with the same title as the seminar—Makers in Cities: The Architecture and Urbanism of Production—which will incorporate theoretical and contemporary material which will make the argument for urban production; describe how cities in history have accommodated it and changed from architectural and urbanistic points of view as modes of production changed; and describe contemporary initiatives and issues that need to be resolved as cities regain their roles as places where production takes place.

In this seminar, students will carry out individual investigations, defined with the instructor, that are intended to contribute to this evolving work. Some possible topics are:

- Detailed architectural case studies of innovative buildings and urban districts that are housing new forms of production and manufacturing
- Studies of historic urban building types that were used for different kinds of manufacturing
- Development of maps, based on historical data, that show the distribution of buildings for production in urban districts
- Other projects to be discussed

It is expected that work will be original, suitable to be incorporated in published work. Necessary credit will of course be given to the student researchers. Students will work in groups of two or three, in coordinated fashion that will allow a substantial project to be completed within the framework of a 2-credit course.

Interested students are welcome to contact Howard Davis at <hdavis@uoregon.edu>