little (kid) big (world)*
intervention + adaptive re-use for a kid-centered community center

A safe and hopeful place for children to learn, play, and grow.
Architecture for an organization that inspires and enables young people to reach their full potential.

Our client is The Boys & Girls Club, an organization that offers afterschool and enrichment programs to elementary-aged kids and teens, with a particular focus on low-income and at-risk youth. Across the country, B&G clubs are community-centered and building-oriented. The clubs are varied and the programs they offer can be, too. They often incorporate feature initiatives in art, drama, life skills, or dance.

* This studio will be structured in collaboration with the IARCH Little Big Box studio that is exploring the adaptive re-use of an existing building on the same site. Beginning with an outline program, students will develop a program for this particular club that is suited to the community and, possibly, to the existing building. Architecture students will then choose to pursue a strategy of adaptive re-use or new construction.

Special Objectives
To engage the program and identify critical design goals, not simply deploy a list of square footage requirements.
To use the project to respond to varied kid scale(s), kid activities, and kid sensibilities.
To develop strategies for integrating natural light, interior elements, skin design, and building systems to create a delightful and sustainable place for kids.

Methods of Working
Physical models, diagrams, perspective sketches, and digital-analog collage will be used extensively throughout the term.
A starter program, site visits, readings, and independent research will form the basis of a compelling program and design brief.
Independent and collaborative research exploring sustainable urbanism, adaptive re-use, site optimization, and community design will provide basis for student's proposals.