Studio Project:
A new building for the YMCA in South Eugene

Background Information:
In 1955 the Eugene YMCA moved to its present location in South Eugene at 2055 Patterson Street, and expanded in 1978 to accommodate a growing membership. Today the facility is woefully out-of-date, with prohibitively high maintenance costs. The Board of Directors needs to explore the feasibility of rebuilding a new facility on the current site. No one is currently studying this option, and the Y is excited to have a summer studio explore this possibility for a new, state-of-the-art YMCA on Patterson Street.

The Mission of the YMCA:
The purpose of our Y is to provide life-enriching, learning opportunities to people of all generations and walks of life. All Y activities seek to create a safe, loving, fun environment that fosters spiritual, emotional, and physical growth.

Program:
The program includes a 50,000 square foot YMCA facility with an aquatic center, teen activity center, wellness center, classrooms, group exercise rooms, a yoga/dance studio, childcare facilities, and family recreational spaces. Also required is on-site parking for 126 cars. A parking and traffic analysis has already been done, and will be available for our use.

Opportunities for students in the studio:
Students will be working in partnership with the YMCA, a local nonprofit organization that serves 3,200 families. The director and co-director of the Y will be actively involved in the work the students produce. Students will have access to the website of the YMCA Exchange, a resource that catalogues information related to project planning, and facility design and construction. It offers guidelines for all building services, including specific program criteria: location and adjacencies; space requirements; safety and security; equipment and furnishings; fenestration; energy and maintenance considerations; and systems requirements.

Focus of the studio:
The focus of this studio will be making the program work on this site: getting the right things in the right places. This, and humanistic considerations - making good places for people - will be the logic from which the design evolves. This is an opportunity to develop a real scheme that has real challenges (both constraints and opportunities). Because of the project’s large size, the focus will be on the big picture; material and structural resolution will not be fine-grained. There will, however, be an opportunity to develop the building lobby in detail.