“The world will not beat a path to our door. But we do have the ability to affect what is happening in our own backyards. When architects are attentive to the social and physical needs of their own communities, the larger world engages.”

from an interview with Samuel Mockbee

pre-designBridge

Course: Arch 407/507
Instructor: Juli Brode
Time: TR 4:00-5:20 pm
Room: Pacific Hall #11

designBridge is a multidisciplinary student organization that focuses on community based design and design/build projects. Recent designBridge projects include an outdoor room and deck for SASS, a tractor “shed” with the Small Farmers Project, and a playscape for Spencer View Co-Op Family Center.

Pre-designBridge is the first class of the ‘designBridge Year,’ a sequence that may include the designBridge Studio in Winter and dB Tech/Build in Spring, when appropriate. The Pre-designBridge class provides an understanding of the topics of Pre-Design and structures the investigation of the design problem. This course focuses on gathering and assessing information, planning effective team strategies and initiating the design process. Anyone, regardless of field of study, interested in participating in a designBridge project is encouraged to join.

Potential projects for next year include an outdoor learning place for Ridgeline Montessori; a basic needs collaborative project (design and construct a loosely defined form of shelter/tool(s) that meet the basic needs of homeless); and possible work with on a small agricultural structure. Priority will be given to projects that have a strong design component and have the highest potential of being completed during the 12/13 academic year. We will form groups that will develop selected projects throughout the term. Students will engage clients, partners, and community to develop and strengthen proposals, positioning projects for further design development and fabrication/construction.

Through lectures, discussions, and work sessions, students will gain exposure to a variety of topics including pre-design, project management, and project development. Students will work in teams and will focus on Project Proposals, Client Interaction/Integration, Internal Team & Project Schedules, Site Evaluations, Program Documents, Environmental Approach, Design Goals & Strategies, and the development of a working Cost Estimate. The quarter includes many small presentations of research and findings. A final design presentation with outside reviewers, partners and clients will conclude the term.

In planning your commitment to a designBridge project, consider the following: curriculum is in place to support each phase of a project, it is critical for a core team of students to commit to a project from beginning to end, and to find a number of others who may be engaged for only one or two of the three phases. First priority for courses will be given to those working on projects and enrolled in the coursework; next to those who volunteer on a team, not enrolled in courses; last to those who are new to a project.