Emerging Dimensions in Urban Ecology and Sustainable Practice

ARCH 4/507
Term: Winter 2011
Credit: 3 credits-hours
Instructor: Josh Cerra
Tuesday, 9:00 - 11:50AM
Location: Room 555, White Stag Building
Grading: Optional

This seminar will introduce emerging aspects of the growing urban ecological design movement, which engages ecosystem thinking as an integral part of sustainable city planning and site development. The course will apply readings, presentations, and guest speakers to study and discuss principles of landscape ecology and urban corridors, and explore a number of recent urban ecological development planning and design initiatives around the region. In the spirit of the movement itself, students will select topics discussed during the course to further develop their own thinking about the intersection of urban natural systems and the built environment.

JOSH CERRA is an environmental designer and senior ecologist at Herrera, a science-based design firm in Portland. He brings a combined background in biology and landscape architecture to integrate urban ecology and sustainability goals into project design processes. He works on both urban habitat restoration and sustainable development projects, and serves on certification teams for a number of sustainable development programs. Josh Cerra has also collaborated with Professor Brook Muller in urban ecological development studios and seminars at the University of Oregon for the past six years.