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 time tbd
Room: tbd

designBridge is a multidisciplinary student group that focuses on community based design and design/build projects. Recent designBridge projects include the nearly-completed bike shelter at Camas Ridge School, an outdoor room and deck for SASS, an entry and courtyard project on North Campus and a tractor "shed" for the Small Farmers Project.

Pre-designBridge is the first class of the ‘designBridge Year’ sequence that also includes the designBridge Studio in the Winter and designBridge Tech/Build in the Spring. Pre-designBridge class acts as an incubator for designBridge projects, provides an understanding of the topics of Pre-Design, and initiates the design process. This course focuses on conceptualizing and investigating those aspects that directly engage the design of the design problem. Anyone, regardless of field of study, interested in participating in a designBridge project is encouraged to join.

Potential projects for next year include a playscape for Spencer Creek Daycare, an SCI/Demonstration Stormwater Project in Springfield, and possible work with on a small urban project in the Whitaker. Priority will be given to projects that have a strong design component and have the highest potential of being completed during the 11/12 academic year. We will form groups that will develop selected projects throughout the term. Students engage with clients, developing projects through design and into construction later in the year.

Through lectures, discussions, and work sessions, students will gain exposure to various topics including pre-design, project management, and project development. Students will work in groups on their selected projects and will focus on Project Proposal, Client Interaction/Integration, Schedule, Site Evaluation, Environmental Evaluation, Early Design Approaches, Legal Organization, and the development of a Program Document and Cost Estimate. A final verbal and graphic presentation will conclude the term.

In planning your commitment to a designBridge project, consider the following: curriculum is in place to support each phase of the designBridge project, the intention is to find a small number of students who will 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 designbridge coursework; next to those on a project team, not enrolled in courses; last to those who are new to a project.