This studio will explore the development of a 7-mile corridor which traverses East Oakland, California. It passes through four lower-income community development districts, whose members speak over 70 languages, with a population of about 200,000 people. The City of Oakland has commissioned a planning study of the boulevard to update its zoning so new higher density development can occur at the same time respecting adjacent single family neighborhoods. Working within the new zoning and recommended design guidelines, students will explore a variety of sites, testing their capacity to include high-density, mixed-use and mixed-income projects.

These ‘test’ projects will be executed with an eye towards satisfying adjacent neighborhoods and their multi-racial, multi-ethnic mix of residents. Also, the public realm—streets, alleys, parks and plazas-- will be designed in coordination with the new test projects.

Studio Information:
The studio will meet Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Thursday activities will be organized to accommodate schedules of students who are enrolled in other courses which meet on Thursdays.

Early in winter quarter students will travel to Oakland for a site visit and tour of similar, recent projects. Trip dates will be decided in the fall.

Some reviews will be attended by Oakland city staff and neighborhood leaders.

Pre-design investigations of architectural constraints and opportunities will be undertaken by the class as a team.

Building designs will be developed individually and students will have the opportunity to select the neighborhood and site, or sites they will investigate.

Multi-family housing is an important component of the International Boulevard development strategy. Students who have not completed prior coursework on housing should plan to take Arch 4/510 Housing Design offered fall quarter. The studio will incorporate dialog with the Type/Place housing studio taught by Peter Keyes.

About Michael Pyatok, FAIA:
Principal of his own architectural firm in Oakland California since 1985 (http://www.pyatok.com/) Mike’s work focuses on non-profit and for-profit housing development throughout the United States. He has won numerous design awards, among them several national housing design competitions, most recently two by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Innovative Design for Home Ownership. He specializes in the design of community facilities and multi-family housing, including low-density suburban as well as high-density, inner-city, mixed-use developments. He is co-author of Good Neighbors: The Design of Affordable Family Housing(1996).

Mike has served as a professor of architecture and design at the University of Washington, Harvard University, and Arizona State University. Mike continues to teach at the University of Washington as a Professor Emeritus. In 2009 he taught a seminar and design studio in the UO Portland Program as the Belluschi Distinguished Visiting Professor.