The term ‘urban’ has become both coveted and freely deployed as architectural projects attempt to latch on to a cultural shift that values qualities outside of the ubiquitous suburban experience. At the same time, there is a need to more specifically understand architecture’s role (as a small scale physical manifestation) in the ‘urban’.

Basic to this studio will be the development of a conceptual framework of how architecture creates/intensifies/makes evident the urban condition. This framework will be tested and modified in the first part of the term through a series of studies/installations that will attempt to ‘urbanize’ an environment through design. In addition to developing the studies/installations themselves, we will pay particular attention to the ways in which they are mapped, documented, and presented.

These investigations will lead to a final project which will be the development of an architectural intervention that builds upon/tests the conceptual framework. Each student will focus on a small scale program (TBD). The small scale of the final projects is intended allow us to focus both on specific aspects of the architecture that create the urban condition as well as allow us to develop highly crafted projects that reach the level of tectonic expression/construction/aesthetics.