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

Arch 407/507
Juli Brode and Nico Larco
Tues. /Thurs. 4:00-5:20
Room 279

pre-designBridge is a multidisciplinary student group that focuses on community based design and design/build projects. Previous designBridge projects include a greenhouse for Northwest Youth Corps, a bike shelter at Edison Elementary, an entry garden for HIV Alliance, a pavilion at Moss Street Childcare, and a bike shelter at Roosevelt Middle School.

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 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 statement of the design problem. Anyone interested in participating in a designBridge project is encouraged to join.

Potential projects for next year include a bicycle shelter for Harris/Eastside School, a UO DPS public safety station/kiosk on North Campus, a community bandshell at Washburn Park, and a prototype for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. Priority will be given to projects that have a strong design component and have the highest potential of being completed during the 09/10 academic year. We will form groups that will develop selected projects throughout the term. Students will engage with clients and develop 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.

With the implementation of designBridge Year, there is curriculum in place to support all phases of designbridge project. The intention is to find 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 Winter and Spring designBridge courses will be given to those working on projects and enrolled in Pre-designbridge; next to those on a project team, not enrolled in the course; last to those who are new to a project.