The existing building is the design award winner of a late 1960's National Architectural Design Competition. The building has been published and recognized in all the major Journals. It has been awarded Local and Regional Architectural Awards. This recognition was primarily because of the informality of the layout, concept and design. It has the informality of a small town's city hall where one can arrive on the plaza level and go directly to the Mayor's office or the courts or any other agency without the formality and security of a lobby, a concierge and long corridors to find the agency to serve you. It is the most unique City Hall in the Country.

Time change, in 50 years the City and staff have grown and are located throughout the downtown. He codes have changed and when the building housed the fire and police departments which are noted as essential services the building cannot be economically seismically corrected to these requirements. The Fire Department has now a new facility and the Police are moving from the building, which will allow reduced and attainable seismic requirements. The building was designed when energy costs were inexpensive and no improvements have since been made. Most of the mechanical and electrical systems are outdated or on their last years of usefulness. As a result, of the building being too small, worn, structurally, mechanically and environmentally not to current standards, the City has not been prone to invest any resources for maintenance to the facility. Instead they have designed a new building for the site that carried with it a $100 Million estimate, which the community is reluctant to approve. The Community also feels that aesthetically the building does not represent this community's 50 year older statement. The community can only see what's there and not what can be....or architecturally vision the future.

This Studio will examine the potential of the existing, it's importance and vision it's future as a City Hall. With the police moving, the lower or parking level can be used for functional space and combined with the upper floor, the existing structure can accommodate most of the space needs for the future.

Prior to the studio beginning, the quantitative programming, organization and proximity of departments and the public interface, site analysis and suggested structural remedies will be completed. This will allow the studio to immediately start the design process.

Studio schedule:
Week one: orientation of work completed prior to the studio convening
Week two: Context (the still life” and qualitative programming “what statement and what is the spirit of the place?”
Week three: Scenario development and testing
Week four: Review
Week five: Presentation (mid term)
Week six repair and continuing
Week seven thru 9: Make it real and present.