One of the fundamental aspects of sustainable urbanism is creating place and identity. Areas without identity and definition are rarely cared for and are often sparsely used. How place is created and expressed, what narratives are engaged or generated, and how that is translated into design will be one of the primary focuses of this studio.

The studio will work in coordination with the City of Springfield on their current project to revitalize the existing downtown towards a more livable and sustainable urban design approach. This is not a hypothetical project and will engage directly with city staff, elected officials, developers, property owners, and neighborhood groups. Springfield has undertaken numerous planning and revitalization efforts in their downtown and now wants to investigate specific urban design approaches for this area.

Along with the development of a stronger identity for this area, the studio will also focus on other aspects of sustainability and livability such as how urban design options can lead to increased walking and biking, reduced GHG emissions, reduced storm water runoff, and increased and more connected habitat.

The intention is for this to be a multidisciplinary studio as it is open to Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Planning students.