In what ways does the building of a bicycle inform an architecture? How can an architecture of and for the bicycle engage and support its immediate and greater community? How can this architecture also help sustain and, potentially regenerate, urban ecologies?

Over their history, bicycles and bicycling have transformed greatly. Today, bikes are designed for roads, but also for trails; for racing, for recreating; for commuting, for hauling – each type’s specific experiential and technical qualities emerging almost exclusively from the various factors of its unique “ecology”. Bikes are economical – resource-efficient in their creation, and energy-efficient in their operation. Their wide-spread use can transform communities – socially, politically, environmentally.

Sustainable and regenerative buildings are similar in many ways… They are most successful when they emerge in harmony with, while being highly responsive to, their “ecology”; and when designed to be resource-efficient in their construction, but also resource-efficient in their operation. In widespread application, they can positively impact and transform not only the communities of their users, but also their greater community, and the greater environment.

This studio will explore architecture at the nexus of urban cycling, bicycle community, bicycle making, and ecological design. The studio project will entail designing a regenerative built-environment to house an “advocacy center” for the urban cycling community… a facility for community-based uses focused on promoting and supporting utilitarian use of bicycles. The primary program includes spaces for education about urban cycling, about maintaining and building utility bicycles, and operating cycling-related business, as well as space for cycling focused non-profit organizations and for the bicycling community to come together for advocacy and camaraderie. A secondary program will include a community bike store, as well as incubator manufacturing and sales spaces for bike-related endeavors, and housing for staff, students and apprentices.

*Pre-requisites for 484: ARCH 384
*Pre-requisites for 584: ARCH 682 or 683

rev. 1.1