PUARL has been approached by representatives of the Port of The Dalles to investigate their traditional downtown with the goals of attracting new growth and development while bringing it into the 21st century in terms of architecture and urban design. Key questions include how to make the old downtown attractive and viable enough so that people want to spend time there, live and work there, and how to make it a comfortable place for inhabitants and visitors alike.

In addition, the citizens of The Dalles are concerned with an overall developmental perspective that includes economic prosperity, sustainability, urban landscape issues such as street facades, signage, connection to the riverfront, citizen participation, and pattern development, to name a few.

The spring quarter serves as an introduction into the topic and surrounding issues as preparation for a Fall Studio that will start to make actual urban architecture and urban design proposals.

Students taking this seminar will engage this effort through an array of methods including economic and development research, research through drawing, and pattern language development.

Possible research topics include but are not limited to:

- Development of a Tiered Research and Studio Sequence Proposal
- Visualizing the Vision: Drawing & Imagery to Support Existing Citywide Vision Statements
- Old Downtown in the larger Urban Context
- (Re)Connecting to the Riverfront
- Downtown Placemaking
- Strengthening the Downtown Axis
- Downtown Infill Development
- Alleys & the Sunken City
- Development and Historic Preservation
- Development and Economic Viability

Hajo Neis, March 2013