BRIDGeway HOUSE & TAMARACK WELLNESS CENTER
Adaptive Reuse and Tenant Improvement Project for School for Autistic Children and Community Wellness Center

Project Description

In this studio, students will be engaged in a hypothetical adaptive reuse and tenant improvement project for Brigeway House (a school for autistic children and community resource center for autism) and Tamarack Wellness Center that offers aquatic programs for recreation and rehabilitation for all ages and abilities. Based on inclusive design criteria and a real-world scenario, the students will be developing optimized design proposals to improve building performance and to enhance organizational goals (short-term and long-term) of the clients while satisfying design problems of other stakeholders (the building owner and other tenants). Each student will be engaged in design research and programming development as a team. The students will also interact with the clients, users, local agencies, and/or community members with disabilities to identify design issues. You will also investigate issues of inclusive design that include conflicts of design considerations for people with different disability conditions. Studio activities will include (but are not limited to) field trips, quest lectures, role-play exercises, design researches, precedence studies, analysis, group/peer discussion, programming, design development, custom fixture/furniture development, details and specifications, lighting design and model making.

Students will be challenged to solve the following design problems:

- Strategic planning to meet specialized organizational short-term and long-term goals of the clients/tenants.
- Space planning to support intended activities while satisfying business feasibilities of the building facility.
- Development of a highly effective facility offering high level of accessibility and positive user experiences regardless of gender, age, ethnic, religious, cultural background and any disabilities beyond building codes and ADA regulations.
- Development of sound design strategies for dealing with existing building conditions that include entry, circulation, existing structure, three-dimensional space, building services, lighting and code-related elements, and ADA issues.
- Design strategies that address design considerations for different types of disabilities including autism.
- Development of architectural design strategy to enhance community visibilities.
- Development of design solutions to improve building performance and sustainability.