ARCH 4/584 “Transit to the Core: Revitalizing Central Gresham,” Arch Design

Mondays 5pm-9pm, Wednesday & Friday 1pm-5pm.

With partners including the City of Gresham, TriMet and the Metro Regional Government, this studio will explore current and real issues around urban design, placemaking, land use, transportation planning and architecture in Oregon’s second largest urban core. The studio will explore the development of a revitalized core for Gresham anchored by the Gresham Transit Center and strengthened by new transit facilities, civic buildings and residential and employment uses. Design will jump in scale from downtown Gresham to the district surrounding the transit center, to site and building design, finally exploring enclosure/public space detailing.

Building on the work of the Powell-Division Transportation and Development Project, this studio will study and put forward urban design options that augment existing light rail transit with new Bus Rapid Transit within the Gresham core. The studio will address placemaking in this redevelopment area, suggest possibilities for active open spaces and propose strategies that will improve connectivity for all modes.

Site planning will include the composition of numerous civic uses (city hall, mercado, arts center) with integrated market-driven, private sector typologies (industrial/flex office, workforce housing), resulting in an urban design plan for the central district.

Following the foundational urban design work, students will adopt a preferred base plan and move into individualized building design with a choice between two civic building programs, each including (at least) one active public open space. Emphasis will be placed on utilization of a basic construction materials palette, consistency with the City of Gresham Design Guidelines, and extensive physical modelling.

Studio requirements will include urban design charrette diagrams, district site modelling and site plans and precedents, building plans, sections, elevations, and a detailed envelope/public space physical model. Classes will be held Monday evening 5-9pm with joint instruction, and Wednesday/Friday afternoons with a single instructor. Extensive involvement from professionals and project agency stakeholders is to be expected.