Arch 454 Urban /Community Design Studio (2023 Fall Semester)
Prof. Xiao Hu

This studio will focus on architectural designs in urban and/or community scales and contexts. Different from previous studios which normally deal with one single building, this studio will primarily focus on the built environment and human life in a larger scale—we will study forms, shapes, places, spatial characters, human behaviors, welfare, business opportunities, life satisfactions, and transportation, as well as economic, social and cultural impacts, within multiple building blocks, a neighborhood, a community, and the city /town. In this studio, we will learn how to apply sustainable urban /community design and regenerative development theories and principles to understand how urban /community design improves our life quality and achieve a strong community renaissance and resilience. For the 4th year students, this will be a good pairing course with the Arch 483 Urban Theories & Issues.

The main project that we will work on this semester will be a multi-phase neighborhood design in a high dense urban area. This project will include research on existing conditions, case studies, programming, master planning, and neighborhood prototype designs. As a result, the final work is not about design details of one single building, but a series of plans and designs focusing on development of multiple building blocks based on profound research and analysis.

(Posters below were examples of previous students’ works)