

ARCH5502 – Urban Design Research Studio

This semester we are going to consider water as it relates to the built form and its impact on the developed environment.

We will begin by exploring what has been done. I'll ask you to search for anything and everything you can find that will contribute to this body of knowledge which we will use as our starting point.

We will also begin by exploring the city of Houston. This means, you will do this on the internet, and here during your site visit. The first exercise starts this venture, but we'll use this more as a way of understanding the basis for which we explore built form and the way in which it is impacted by natural water flow and increased development.

Ultimately, we will create potential development solutions from what I refer to as 'macro to micro'. In this regard, it means – 'how do we consider development in a city with no zoning' – *the macro...* to 'how do we consider the building of house' – *the micro*.

There are several directions to take with this, so the research and exploration unit will require careful intention that can lead to articulate problem identification.

In two weeks – you will have identified *the problem* as you see necessary to address. While in Houston, we will explore in this regard. We will then define the direction and begin research and solution development through the remainder of the semester.

We will end the semester with a series of solutions, small scale models, drawings, and writings that help one to understand the relevance of the proposal. Solutions must be based on sound research.