

UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield

Projects supported through the UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield

(updated 12/10/13, Michael DiPasquale and Frank Slegers)

The majority of the studios are a result of a community engagement process. The Design Center is used as a meeting, learning, presentation and exhibition space.

2009

“Making Connections – Envisioning Springfield’s North End”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The designs focused on better connections from the North End to the Connecticut River.

2010

“From the Quadrangle to the River: Revitalizing the Heart of Springfield”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio developed a Master Plan for the core area of downtown Springfield, with a focus on the revitalization of open space and the connections from the city’s historic “Quadrangle” and the Connecticut River.

“Pynchon Park”

Landscape Architecture Studio, Instructors: Mark Lindhult and Jane Thurber (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

“Building Linkages “– Projects for Pynchon Plaza

Architecture Studio, Instructor: Caryn Brause

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The three studios work resulted in successful plans for reuse, and the reopening of the park.

31 Elm Street/Court Square Hotel Building

Architecture Studio, Instructor: Ray Mann

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

Redesign and renovation of an existing historic building into mixed use development, including commercial, retail and residential use.

Development of a Corridor Study and Redevelopment Strategy for the Six Corners and Old Hill Neighborhoods

Regional Planning Studio, Instructors: Peter Kumble and Michael DiPasquale (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

Planning proposals to revitalize existing neighborhoods and commercial districts in Springfield's "Six Corners" and "Old Hill Neighborhoods".

2010 (cont'd)

“Springfield’s Upper Lyman Warehouse District Visions for Revitalization”

Urban Design Studio, Instructors: Frank Slegers and Elizabeth Thompson (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The focus for this project is Upper Lyman Street, an underutilized area of downtown Springfield that is strategically located near the soon to be redeveloped Union Station.

Lyman Street Infill Building and Renovation of Existing Buildings

Architecture Studio, Instructor: Blake Williams

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

Proposals for infill buildings and renovations to rebuild an urban fabric along Lyman Street in Downtown Springfield.

2011

A new Public Market in Springfield’s South End

Landscape Architecture Studio, Instructors: Jane Thurber and Ignacio Campillo (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

Proposals for new market hall in Springfield’s South End neighborhoods. Work includes urban design plans and housing proposals.

“Creating livable neighborhoods in Old Hill and Six Corners”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The project used work from the Fall 2010 Regional Planning Studio and created designs around the topics of green infrastructure and liveable streets.

“Riverscaping - Alles am Fluss” - International learning laboratory with international experts from Hamburg (Ger) and local experts

Frank Slegers (organizer) with Thom Long, Karen Koehler, in collaboration with Five Colleges Inc.: Hampshire – Mount Holyoke – Smith – Amherst College - UMass.

The Riverscaping learning laboratory engaged a diversity of people from the Pioneer Valley in round-table discussions. 150 participants included residents, entrepreneurs, community activists, local artists, students from all five colleges, city planners, and representatives of environmental organizations. April 7-9, 2011.

“Reconnecting People to the Connecticut River: from Springfield's South End to Forest Park”

Urban Design Studio, Instructors: Frank Slegers and Elizabeth Thompson (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio investigated Springfield’s riverfront and proposed enhanced connections from downtown and along the riverfront.

Architecture Studio – After the Tornado -Rebuilding Main Street

Architecture Studio, Instructor: Chris Novelli

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

2011 (cont'd)

“POPULATION 7 Lyman Street Art Intervention”

Transformative public art project. Frank Slegers, Elizabeth Englebretson, Carli. Foster, Doris Huang, Eric. Wojtowicz. November 2011.

This project attracted visitors from the region and the city and resulted in new collaborations for transformative public art.

“Stone Soup: UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield”

Caryn Brause, Michael DiPasquale, and Frank. Slegers.

Presented at Association for Community Design (ACD) National Conference: Design in Action 2011, Philadelphia, PA, October 9-11, 2011.

2012

“Redesign of Merrick Park”

Landscape Architecture Studio, Instructors: Jane Thurber, Mark Lindhult (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The designs created gateways to Springfield’s Quadrangle museums.

“Along the Chicopee River from the Mills to the Ludlow Bridge - Creating a Vision for Indian Orchard in Springfield, MA”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio capitalized on the unique opportunities of the beauty of the Chicopee River.

“Designing a Community Center in the North End”

Architecture Studio, Instructor: Joseph Krupczynski

The studio envisioned designs for a new Community Center in the North End.

“Street Arteries and Terraces as Green Streets in Springfield’s Forest Park Neighborhood”

Urban Design Studio, Instructors: Frank Slegers, Elizabeth Thompson, Carolina Aragon (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio focused on green infrastructure strategies to improve the neighborhood.

“Around the X”

Architecture Studio, Carey Clouse and Ray Mann

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio focused on infill development around the “X” in the Forest Park Neighborhood.

“Park(In)g Event Day”

Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects event. 30 participants from Western ASLA chapter, including students for one-day-installation and tree planting in Springfield, MA’s South End. September, 2012.

2013

“Developing a Physical Presence in Springfield, MA.”

Presentation, UMass Institute for Social Science Research, College for Social and Behavioral Sciences, February 7, 2013.

http://www.umass.edu/sbs/news_events/news_stories/issr_research_springfield.ht

“Green and Healthy: Revitalizing Springfield’s North End as a Place to Live, Work and Recreate”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio developed scenarios for new housing and green infrastructure in the neighborhood and the medical district.

“Park(In)g Event Day”

Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects event. 30 participants from Western ASLA chapter, including students for one-day-installation and tree planting in Springfield, MA’s South End. September, 2013.

“Home in the Heart of Springfield: Lower Worthington Street District”

Regional Planning Studio, Instructor: Darrell Ramsey-Musolf (LARP)

Client: Develop Springfield and City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio investigated planning strategies around the area that was destroyed by a gas explosion in the fall of 2012.

“The “X” as Center – Creating a Place in Springfield’s Forest Park Neighborhood”

Urban Design Studio, Instructor: Frank Slegers and Elizabeth Thompson (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

The studio developed design proposals to improve street crossings and connections to Forest Park. It also investigated urban infill opportunities and measures to enhance the district through public art.

“The Futurescape City Tours “

Exhibition. Funded by the National Science Foundation under the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), Futurescape City Tours are interactive, community engagement projects where participants explore how new technologies could change their city and their lives in the near future. Springfield is one of six cities, including St.Paul, MN; Portland, OR; Phoenix,AZ; Edmonton, Alberta; and Washington, D.C., hosting engagements in which local residents, stakeholders, scientists and engineers tour their neighborhoods and talk about how new technologies like nanotechnology may change buildings, transportation, food, healthcare, energy use and more.

Krista Harper, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and the Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

“Revitalizing Court Square”

Introduction to Urban Design Seminar/studio

Instructor: Michael DiPasquale

Additional activities planned for the Design Center:

Spring 2014

Lyman Street Entertainment District

Instructors: Michael DiPasquale and Frank Slegers (LARP)

Client: City of Springfield. Office of Planning and Economic Development

LARP Community Engagement Project, August 2014

In addition the UMass Amherst Design Center is used by a variety of groups and organizations for meetings, training programs and exhibits. These have included:

Summer 2012 Springfield High School Design Program

Boston Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting

American Planning Association – Massachusetts

Boston Society of Architects

Develop Springfield

Historic Springfield Underground Railroad Tour

Project for Public Spaces Court Square Event

Firefighters Training Seminars (UMass Extension)

Springfield Redevelopment Authority Parking Garage Committee

City of Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development