

"When you build a thing you can not merely build that thing in isolation, but must also repair the world around it, and within it, so that the larger world at that one place becomes more coherent, and more whole."

Christopher Alexander

THE TURN CENTER

Studio Topic

The effective regeneration of urban areas is one of the major challenges for societies across the US and the world. It aims to provide an improved physical environment and social and economic opportunities for citizens. This design studio is concentrated on methods of public intervention, urban design, sustainable development, heritage preservation, and strategic planning that contribute to urban regeneration strategies.

The studio will engage in the design and development of an urban community services hub in collaboration with Bright Star Community Outreach (<http://brightstarcommunityoutreach.com>). The Bronzeville TURN Center, inspired by NATAL in Israel, will serve Chicago with counseling and other social services aimed at minimizing the negative factors that cause violence while providing protective influences that strengthen community. The BDC will focus on four services: counseling, mentorship, parenting and workforce development.

The program includes both public and private spaces (retail, counseling center, educational and recreational spaces, a six hundred-seat assembly hall, staff offices and a public cafe). The site for the project is located at the intersection of S. Cottage Grove Ave. and 46th Street in the Cottage Grove Heights neighborhood. A large site component is part of the design challenge, meant to accommodate parking as well as usable exterior gathering spaces.

Studio Format

This course will be taught in a studio format that is closely aligned with your previous core studios. The largest portion of class time will be devoted to individual and group desk critiques conducted in the studio space. Frequent group pin-ups, reviews, and impromptu group discussions treating various topics will occur as needed. In addition to the work in the studio space, there will also be site visits and topic specific lectures.

