

The Duwamish Studio.

BE 498/598 6 Cr. Gould 148A Summer A Term 2015

Instructor: Dr. Vikramaditya Prakash, vprakash@uw.edu



This studio is the first installment of a multiyear project, examining the emergent local-global conditions of the Duwamish river delta area. The long term objective of the studio lab is to develop a pre-disciplinary, cross-referenced understanding of the cultural, social and environmental issues effecting the Duwamish river delta, and to identify and propose specific built environment based solutions to identified problems. Foregrounding the issues of the immigrant and disadvantaged communities of the area will be a priority and a focus.

This year, the first half of studio will be devoted to research, research here constituted mostly as the act of a. identifying, b. gathering and c. succinctly representing the local and global issues at play in the Duwamish river delta. These will be divided into three topic: 1. current and long term, local and regional drivers of the river ecology; 2. the properties of the port industrial-scale, its history and prospects; 3. The conditions, imperatives, history and prospects of the immigrant/low income communities of the area.

The second part of the studio will focus first on identifying the issues and distilling a specific set of built environment problems. This will be done as a synthetic analysis exercise integrating the topics issues identified in the first part of the studio, and will again be focused significantly on diagraming and representation.

Towards the end of the studio we will charrette a set of beginning solutions.

All our work will be presented on a website/book developed especially for this studio.

Open to senior and graduate students in the Built Environment and related disciplines. Students can transfer credits to their major as electives or studio credits on a case-by-case basis.