PAAP cares 2026

16th annual event

AGENDA

- INTRODUCTIONS
- AWARDS
- PROJECTS
- DAAPCARES: Student Organization

DAAPcares MISSION

DAAPcares honors and supports the work of DAAP students, faculty, staff, and alumni to improve the quality of life around the world. From local to global, individual to multidisciplinary, and academic to professional - we connect scholarship to solutions. These accomplishments are celebrated annually in a showcase of innovative projects and research that represent our mission to achieve sustainable outcomes with environmental, economic, and cultural equity.

DAAPcares Student Organization

Faculty Advisor: John Dixon

Staff Advisor: Lora Alberto

Graduate Assistant: Lucinda Vandekieft

Student Leadership:

Zoe Limbach

DAAPcares Awards Committee

John Dixon, SOD

Brian Grubb, SOP

Mrinalini Aggarwal, SOA

Anca Matyiku, SAID

Topic Awards

NASO- Food Spoilage Detector
Ben Ragals

The Secret Garden
Lauren Stueve

UC Black History Tour
Gabbi Godenzi, Claire Culwell

Food is Fuel
Alessandro Sosa, Milan Pema, Trinity Wainscott

Waterways
Austin Shenk

LOOM: Mobile Campus Skill Share Application
Mikayla Lykins

School Awards

Human-Centered Design Recommendations
Mythili Emani

Cheese on Mine
Vivienne Yan

The Cultivated Table
Sophie Hemingway

Pollinator Garden at BPG
Sarah Austgen,
Jenniffer Smith

The Neighborhood Dispatch

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: D.J. Trischler

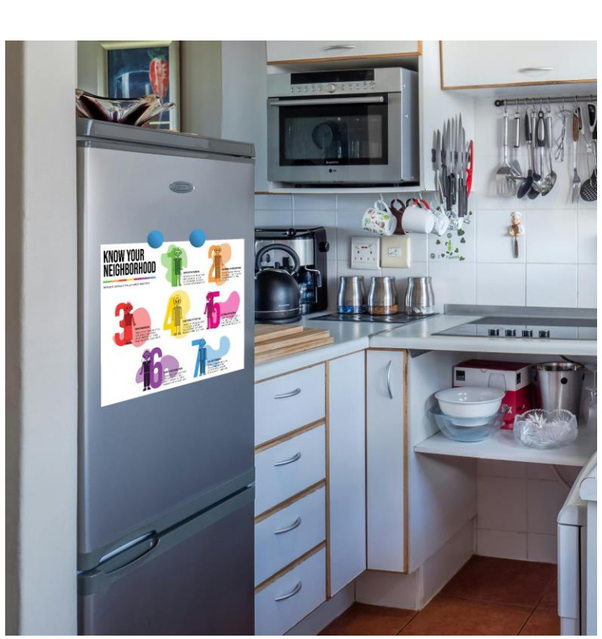
LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Lucy O'Brien, Grace Nunn*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Neighbor Dispatch is a community-centered design project focused on reducing social isolation by empowering residents to create their own neighborhood newsletters. Our interactive guidebook walks users through the steps of starting a newsletter, while prompting them to shift their perspective toward the needs and interests of their neighbors. Essentially, ensuring we design alongside the community, rather than over it. Through exploratory, generative, and evaluative design research methods, we developed an accessible tool that encourages reconnection, mutual aid, and a renewed sense of place within Cincinnati neighborhoods. The Neighbor Dispatch uses design as a catalyst for belonging, strengthening community bonds through approachable, equitable communication.



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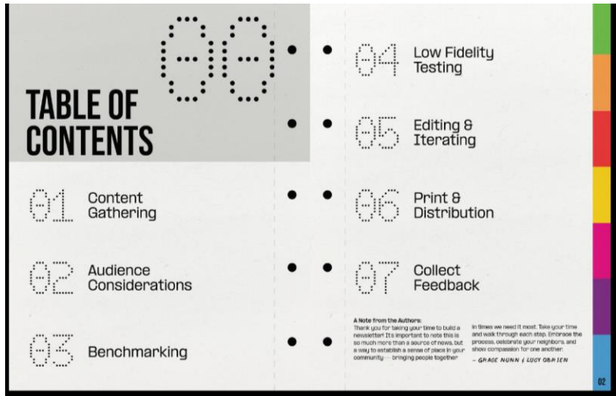
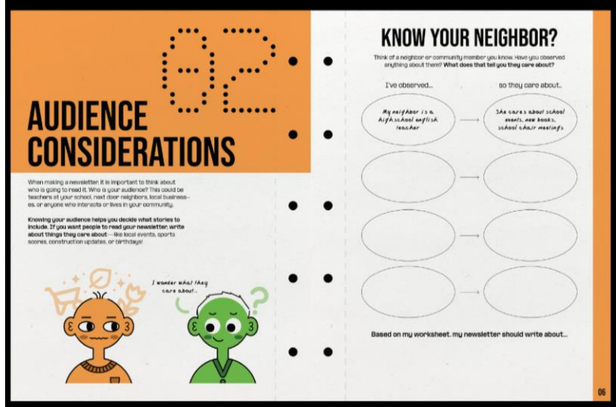
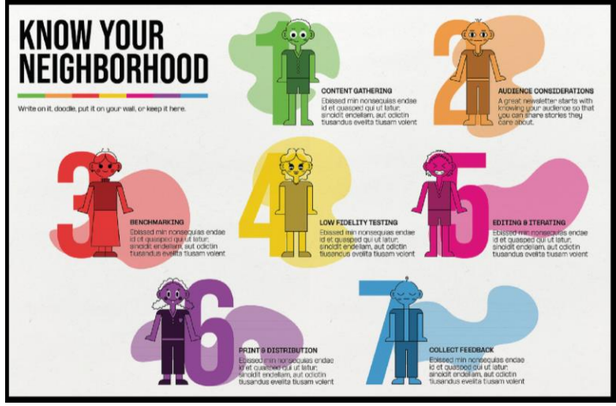






UC Black History Tour

SOD

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: DJ. Trischler

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Gabbi Godenzi, Claire Culwell*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This semester, we applied human-centered and participatory design methods to imagine a physical version of the UC Black History digital tour. The UC community needs candid confrontation of the university's past, but invisible and inaccessible campus Black history makes this difficult. The UC Black History Tour is an EGD project that makes unflinching UC Black history visible and accessible for students and staff to recognize their role in the present.

THREE SIDES

The Irate 8 | Title + Graphic | Samuel DuBose

2026 DAAPcares

Inclusive Excellence Award

Breaking Down Compost

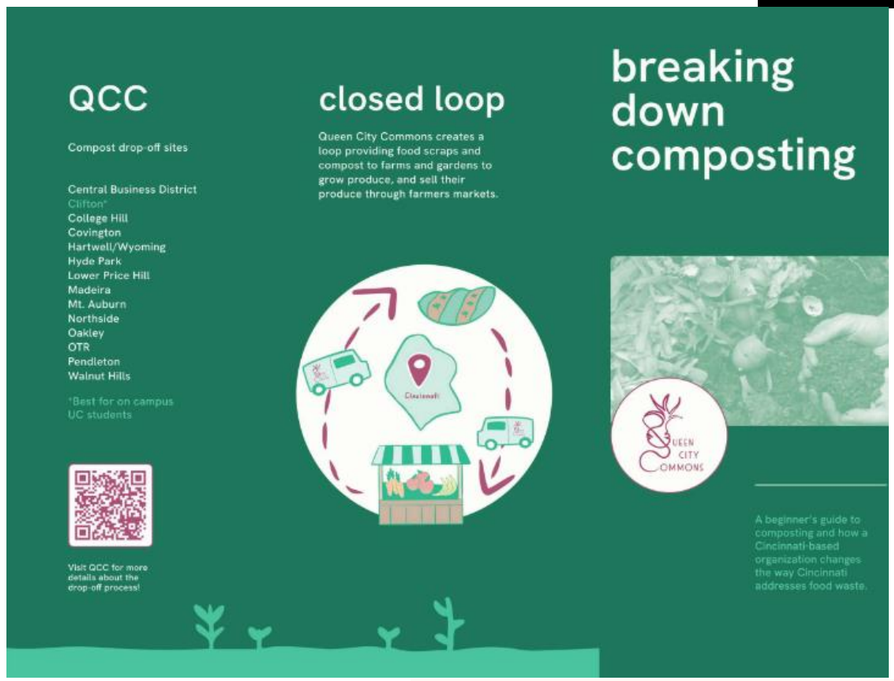
SOD

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: DJ. Trischler

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Katy Saylor, Nicole Mech*



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Many people could benefit from composting their food waste, but a lack of accessible educational resources prevents them from doing so. People need beginner-friendly education about composting, but unfeasible and overwhelming content makes this difficult. "Breaking Down Composting" is an infographic print project that simplifies composting for beginners.

Nature Narratives Initiative

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: DJ. Trischler

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

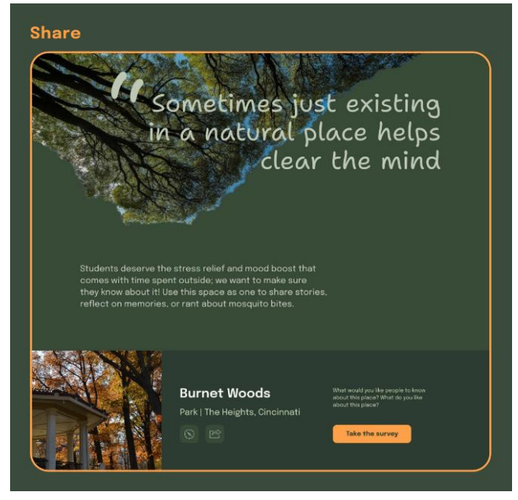
PARTICIPANTS

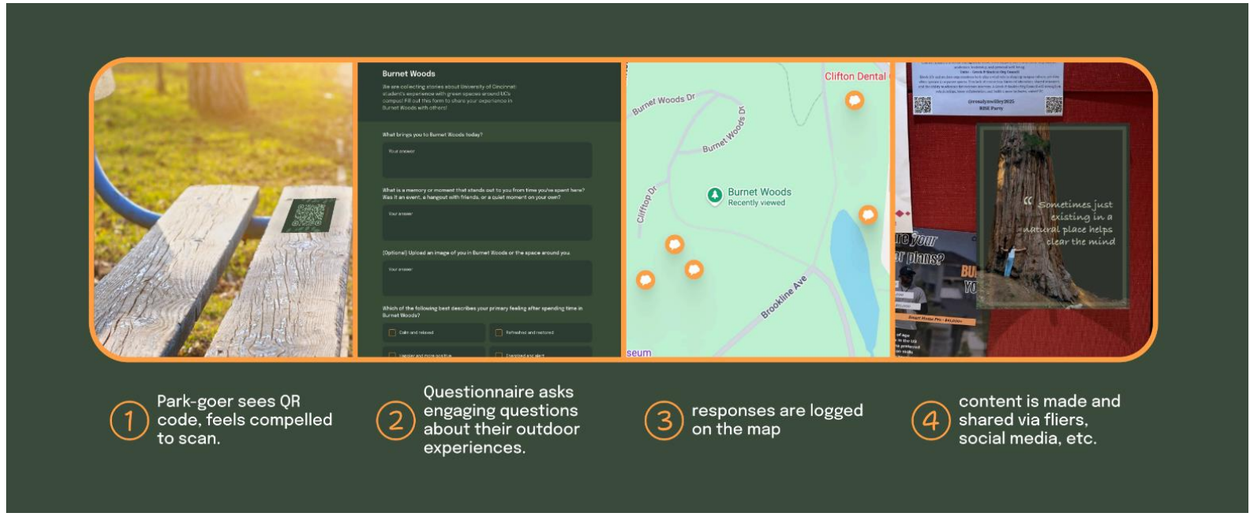
Students: *Sarah Bridge, Savannah Bumgarner*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

University of Cincinnati students need to spend more time outside but lack of knowledge around its effectiveness and accessibility on campus makes this difficult. The Nature Narrative Initiative is a print and UI project that utilizes QR coded stickers and digital forums to collect stories in nature and amplifying these perspectives with social posts and posters to encourage UC students to connect with their local greenspaces.

SOD





SOD

Perceiving Sustainability: How Educational Tools Shape Understanding of Earthship Architecture

Thesis Defense | DSGN 8082 | Instructor: Braden Trauth, Ming Tang

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

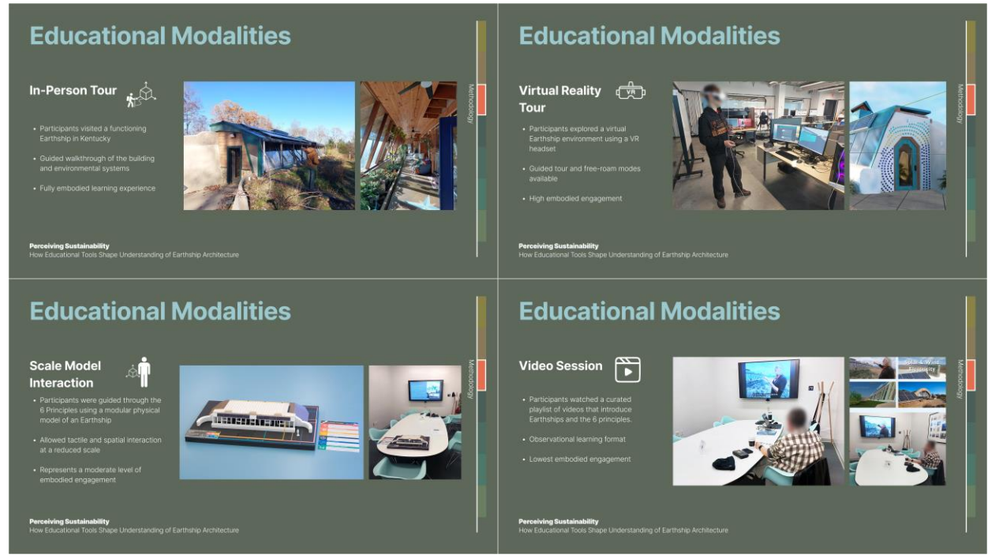
PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Mario Bermejo*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Architecture education often overlooks experimental systems like Earthships, limiting students' exposure to sustainable models beyond grid-dependent frameworks. This study tested four learning modalities: an in-person tour, virtual reality, physical models, and video media. Using structured sessions and pre- and post-surveys, it compared how each modality influenced understanding, engagement, and recall of sustainable design principles.

The results show the value of experiential learning in improving how sustainability is understood and applied in design.



NASO- Food Spoilage Detector

SOD

Capstone Studio | INDL4065 | Instructor: Yingying Sun

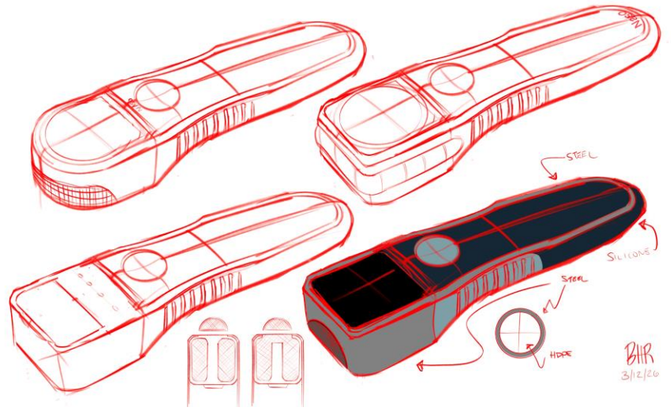
LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Ben Ragals*

2026 DAAPcares

Innovation Award

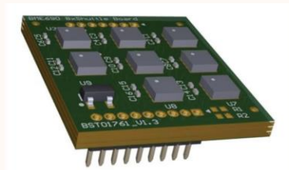


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naso is a food spoilage detector designed for users with severe smell disorders such as Hyposmia and Anosmia. It uses a volatile organic compound (VOC) sensor and classification algorithm to detect spoilage to reduce the risk of food poisoning while cooking at home. Naso is designed to function more like a helpful kitchen tool rather than an undignified medical device.

The How

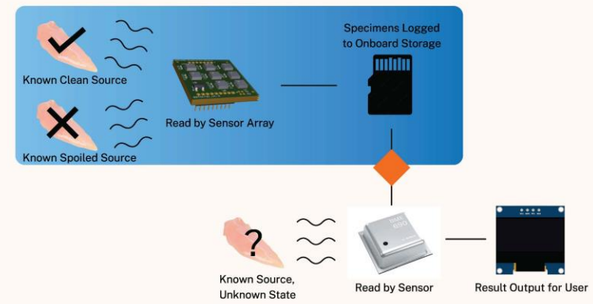
a single Bosch Sensortec Environmental Sensor



VOC sensor array

An array of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) sensors is used to **train an algorithm** on **known sources**.

The device then uses a single sensor to detect **particles emitted from foods** and other sources and then checks these particles against the algorithm.



SOUS Cooking Assistant

SOD

Capstone Studio | INDL 4045- 003 | Instructor: Yingying Sun

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Kye Longbrake*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cooking is healthier and cheaper than takeout, and for a college student every penny counts, but most students don't have access to kitchens and even if they did quite a few of them would not know where to start. SOUS is the all in one assistant that can teach you while providing a meal that you can call your own, and when you're done can tuck out of the way in any low space area you may find yourself in.

SOD

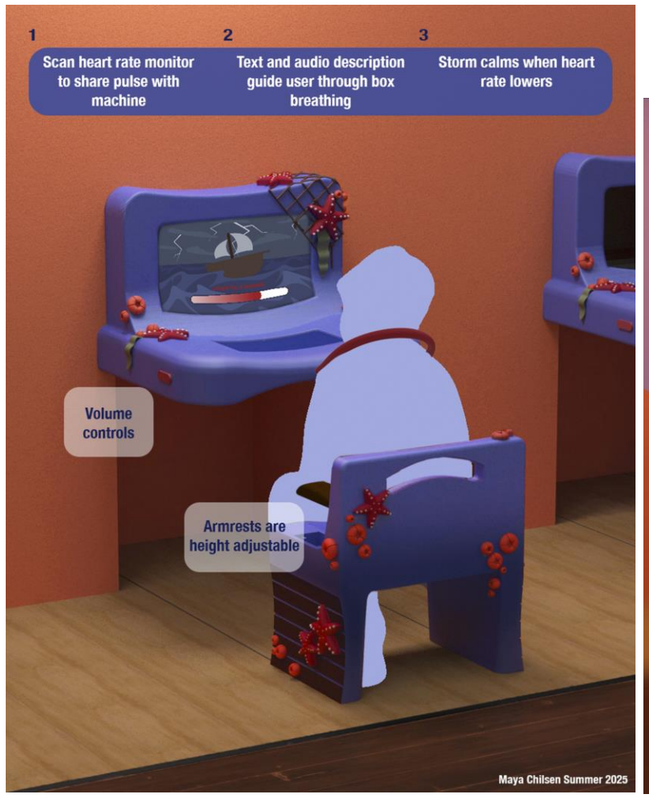
Feeling Adventurous

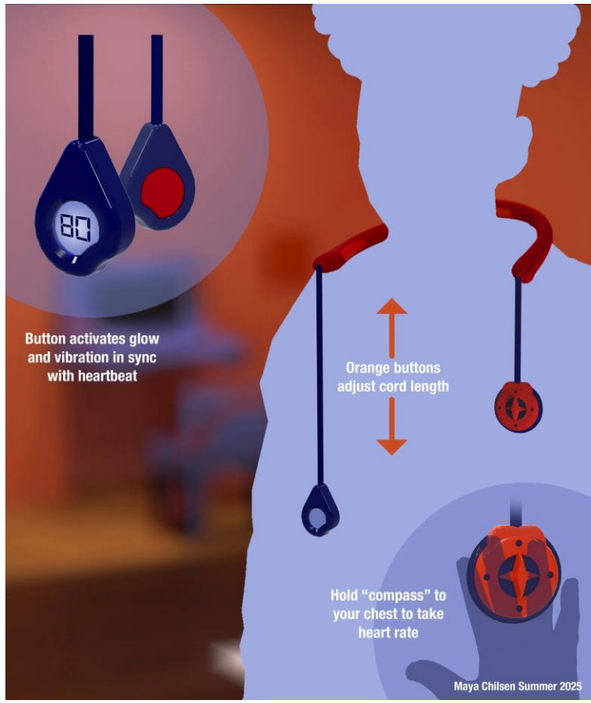
Personal Project

LOCATION: **Evanston, IL, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

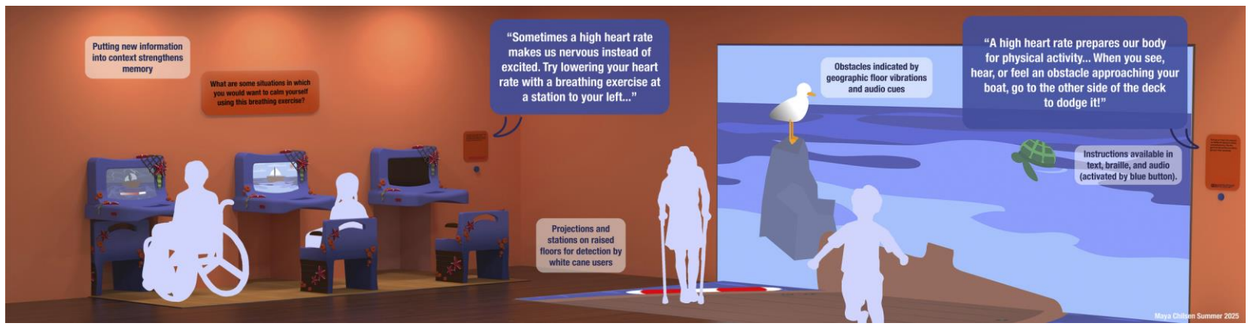
Student: *Maya Chilsen*





PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An inclusive children's museum exhibit that educates users about emotional regulation through breath work. Addresses the emotional stunting experienced by children brought up during the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent overwhelm experienced by teachers when in-person instruction resumed. The space emphasizes access and connection between disparate visitors through multi sensory information delivery, generous floor space, and flexible features, like stowing seats.



SOD

Waste Reduction at UC Sporting Events

Design Strategy | DSGN7021 | Instructor: Brooke Brandewie

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Betsaida Sanchez Lazos, Luiza Prata, Chloe Pampush*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Collaborating on a research-driven design strategy, we aligned our vision with the University of Cincinnati's sustainability goals. Our approach proposed leveraging the competitive edge of the athletics program to cultivate a campus-wide culture of sustainability. Our primary objective is clear: Positioning the University of Cincinnati as the leader in Green Athletics in the Big 12.

CREATE A SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Create a donor-based sustainability fund that is promoted during games, offering prizes for those who donate.

COLLECTIBLE REUSABLE METAL CUPS

Transition all beverage containers to reusable metal souvenir cups with a drink incentive, offering a cheaper refill than buying a new drink.

CANNED WATER COLLABORATION

Collaborate with American Water (local KY brand) to design a custom UC can to have canned water at games.

SOD

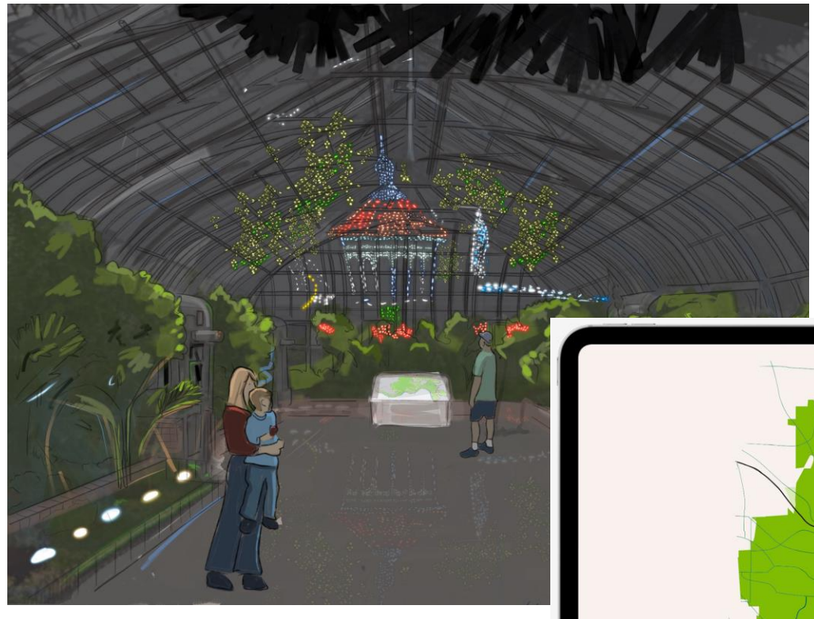
Experiential Marketing for Park Education

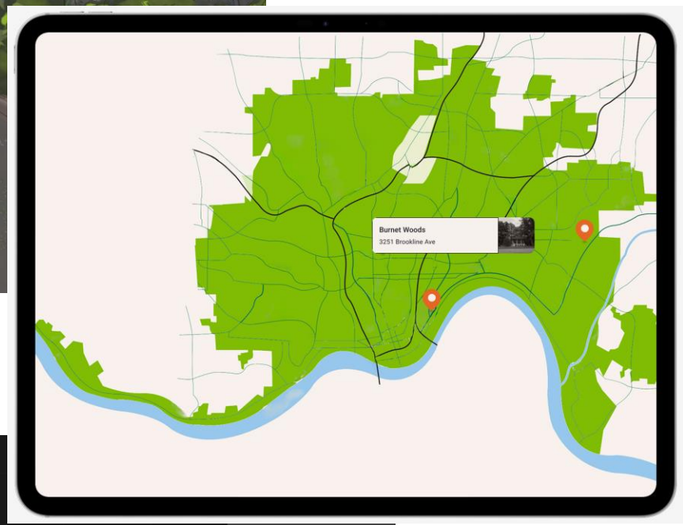
Capstone Studio | INDL4065 | Instructor: Yingying Sun

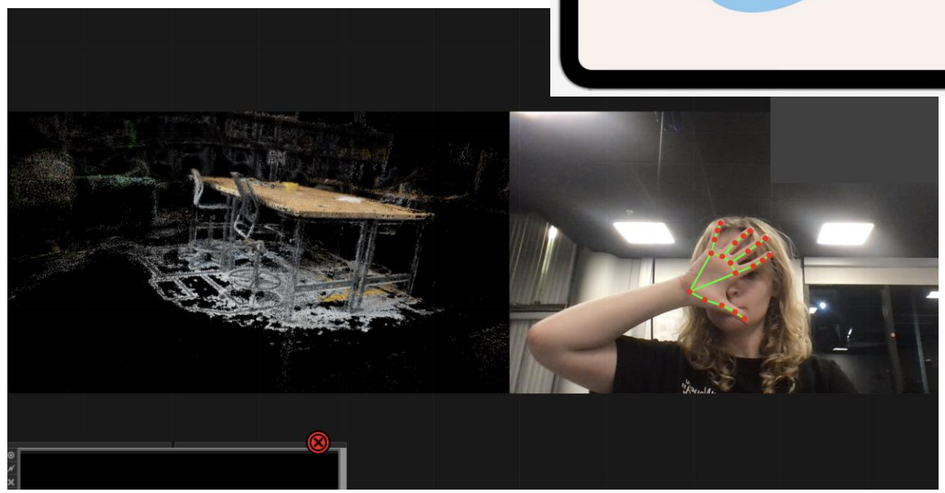
LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Virginia Sheldon*







PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I will approach Park Education from an Experiential Design Perspective in order to increase information retention and create a multi sensory experience. Using 3d scanning and projection visualization I will be educating people on Cincinnati parks as well as ways new technology and advertising can influence education and better our local communities

SOD

Human-Centered Design Recommendations for UAV Blood Sample Transport in Urban Healthcare Context

Thesis Delivery | DSGN 8002 | Instructor: Isil Oygur Ilhan

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Mythili Emani*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project explores how UAV-based systems can support the transport of medical samples, with a focus on blood sample logistics in urban healthcare networks. Through interviews, workshops, and participatory design activities with healthcare professionals, the research examines how current transport workflows operate and where challenges exist. The study identifies key factors such as chain of custody, verification, and trust that influence how new technologies are adopted in clinical environments. Based on these insights, the project develops a set of human-centered design recommendations and presents them through a structured playbook. The outcome aims to bridge the gap between advanced air mobility systems and healthcare workflows by focusing on the design of the payload and its role in enabling safe, reliable, and trustworthy transport. The project aims to contribute to bridging the healthcare access gap by reducing laboratory turnaround time through the use of UAVs.

2026
DAAPcares

Best in School of Design

New Roots

SOD

Capstone | CODE4100, CODE5000 | Instructors: Muhammad Rahman, Alison Place

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Francesca Campisano*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

New Roots is a branded starter kit that teaches the basics of starting and maintaining a small-scale container garden for young adults going through transitionary stages of life. Home gardening is not an activity that seems feasible to many young adults who are searching for stability within their rapidly changing lives, but that's the exact reason they should incorporate it into their lifestyle. Its mental and physical benefits are limitless, not to mention the healthy foods it provides you with at the end. New Roots encourages learning and playing at the same time as new gardeners are encouraged to try and aren't criticized if they fail.

Food is Fuel

Design Research Methods | CODE 4021 | Instructor: Muhammad Rahman

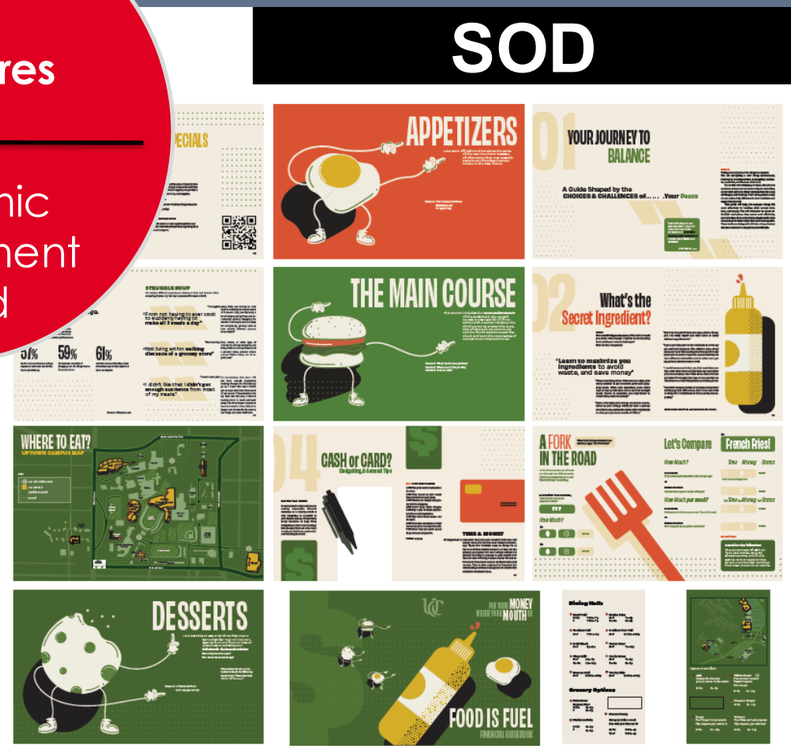
LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Alessandro Sosa, Milan Pema, Trinity Wainscott*

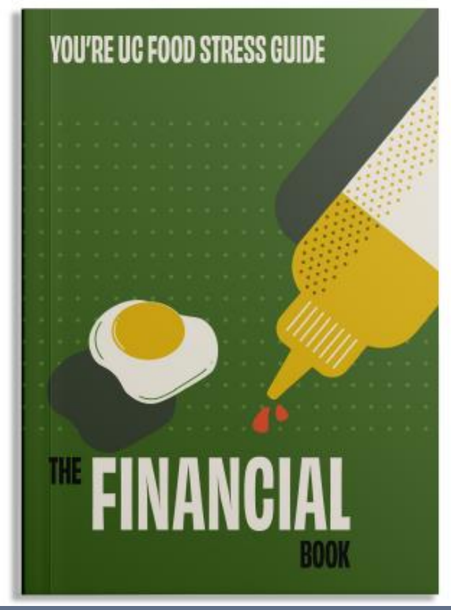
2026 DAAPcares

Academic Achievement Award



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Food is Fuel is a set of three guidebooks that teaches freshmen and sophomores habits around food that are designed to help them transition into confident, independent living.
Book 1: Financial Guidebook
Book 2: Social Guidebook
Book 3: Cooking Guidebook
The guidebooks are presented to students at their dorm orientations and RA's will walk students through interactive activities and they are rewarded with branded stickers.



LOOM: Mobile Campus Skill Share Application

Interaction Design 1 | CODE 2110 | Instructor: Matthew Furber

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

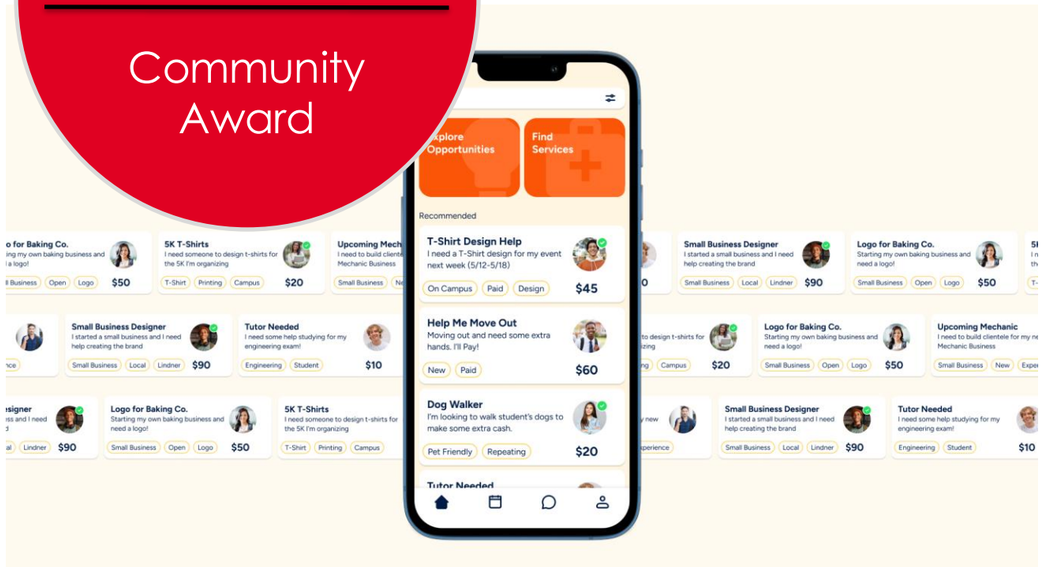
PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Mikayla Lykins*

2026 DAAPcares

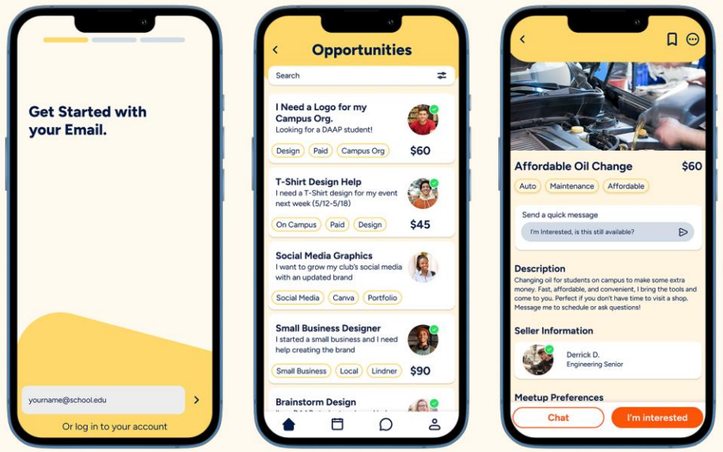
Community Award

SOD



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Loom is an interactive product that allows university students to collaborate and share their unique skills across campuses worldwide, fostering strong networks and real-world experience. Loom will enable students to collaborate and share skills, meeting each other's unique needs.



SOD

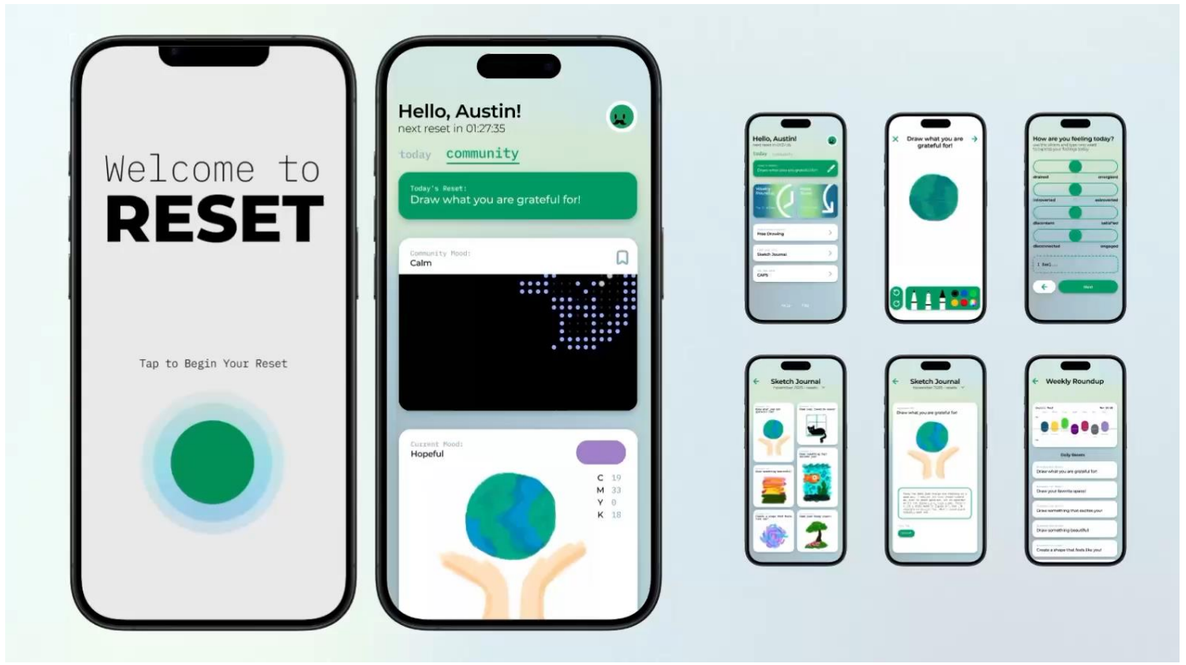
RESET

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: Muhammad Rahman

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Alex Dudash, Hope Seibert, Luke Buckley*



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RESET is an app that provides students with daily reflective prompts to promote expressive drawing. The app also has the students input their current emotions and feelings, which it then combines with the rest of DAAP's input to create a community motion piece. This motion piece would display on screens around DAAP and help show students they are not alone, encouraging further open conversation surrounding mental health.

Cheese on Mine

2026
DAAPcares

Best in School of Art

SOA

Personal Project

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Vivienne Yan, Maggie Barnett, Shirin Rustamova, Evan Kirchner, Bo Yan, Lucas Yan, Matt Yan, Katie Lu, Amari Brookins, Alailah Kelser, Madison Bryant*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves one photo per day, taken consistently for several months. I was inspired by the artist Tehching Hsieh and his One Year Performances, and Carrie Mae Weems' Kitchen Table Series for its exploration of the different roles a single place can come to play. In a world as fast paced as ours, it's difficult to tell just how far we've come until we can look back on the journey we took to get here.

From the country we live in, to the people we surround ourselves with, to the person we are - how can art be factored into how we view time and value each waking moment? How can images help us see ourselves in ways we hadn't before? This project documents cumulative moments that lead to transformation of our bodies and domestics spaces. It engages cultural equity by insisting that the everyday - the familiar spaces, the quiet shifts, the people beside us - is worth looking at closely, and worth recording.

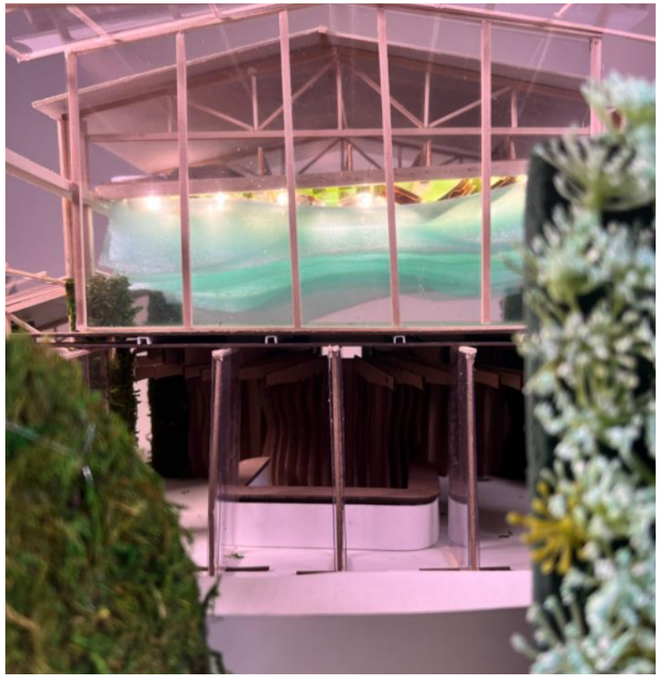
The Secret Garden: An Experiential Wellness and Culinary Environment

Interior Design Studio Course | INTD3001 | Instructor: Anca Matyiku

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Lauren Stueve*



SAID

2026 DAAPcares

Compassion Award

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Secret Garden is an immersive interior design project designed to reconnect people with food, movement, and nature through a sequence of curated spatial experiences. Rooted in biophilic design and slow-living principles, the project explores how thoughtfully designed environments can positively impact mental, physical, and emotional well-being while promoting sustainable and inclusive lifestyle practices. The project aligns directly with the DAAPs mission by connecting academic design exploration to real-world solutions that improve quality of life. This project demonstrates how design can foster environmental awareness, cultural engagement, and human-centered experiences at both individual and community scales. At the heart of the project are three experiential zones, Intimate, Clearing, and Fresh, each representing a different stage of discovery and personal growth.

Off the Grid

SOD

Design Research Methods | CODE4021 | Instructor: Muhammad Rahman

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Margot Chamberlin, Micah Dowdy, Mae Reese*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Off the Grid is a workbook with quick, low-pressure creativity prompts for upper-classmen Communication Design students so that they can reintroduce playful, hands-on making in a flexible yet structured way. The workbook should encourage experimentation by offering guidance and structure without pressure, help students reconnect with hands-on, analog making away from screens, and reintroduce the enjoyment of playful making, helping students rediscover joy from creativity.

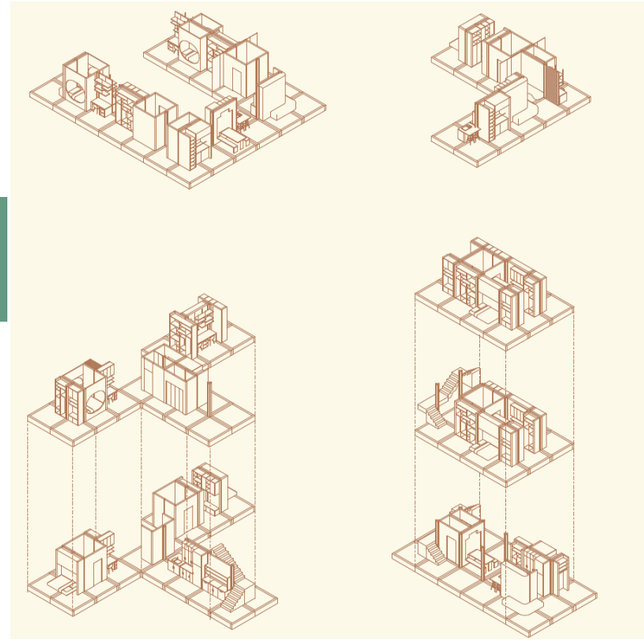
Linear Core: A Spatial Framework

Building Design Research Studio | ARCH4002 | Instructor: Whitney Hamaker

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Sarah Adams*



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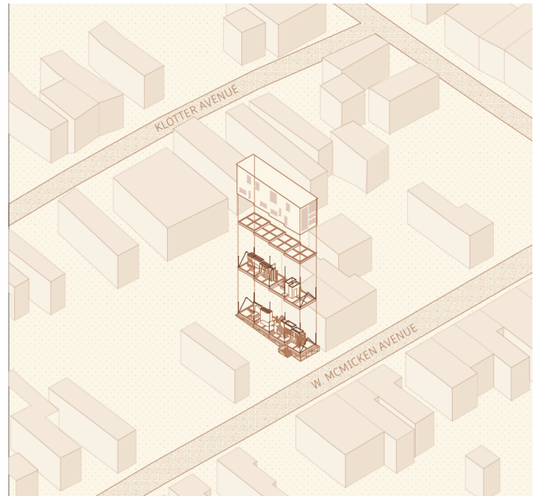
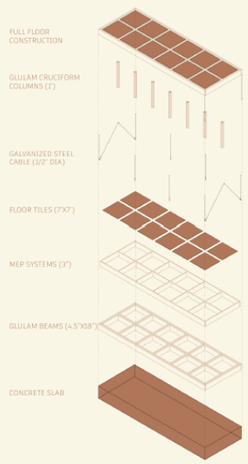
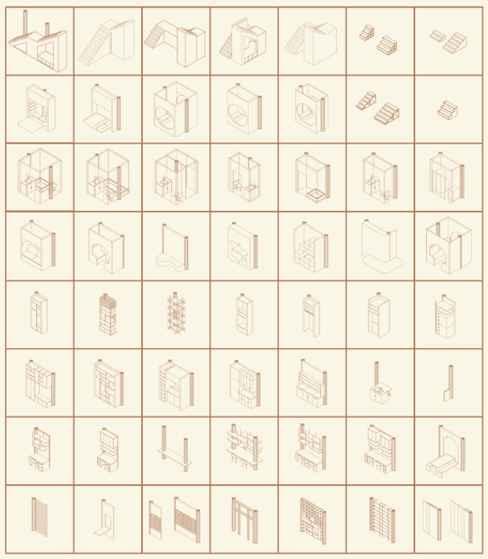


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

What if walls were designed not just to enclose space, but to house and organize other building systems? This project reimagines spatial organization through a single linear wall structured by a base grid of cruciform columns that separate beams and MEP systems through the floor. With the second story supported at the building's center, tension cables stabilize the structure by pulling down the exterior beams. Modular units can be added to the system, allowing the wall to expand into multiple parallel walls or adapt to narrow sites, larger lots, and even sloped terrain through vertical shifts in the grid. In this way, the wall becomes an active architectural element—adaptable, interactive, and responsible for interior structure rather than relying on the exterior envelope.





Haus of Glass

SAID

Advanced Building Design Studio | ARCH7004 | Instructor: Mara Marcu

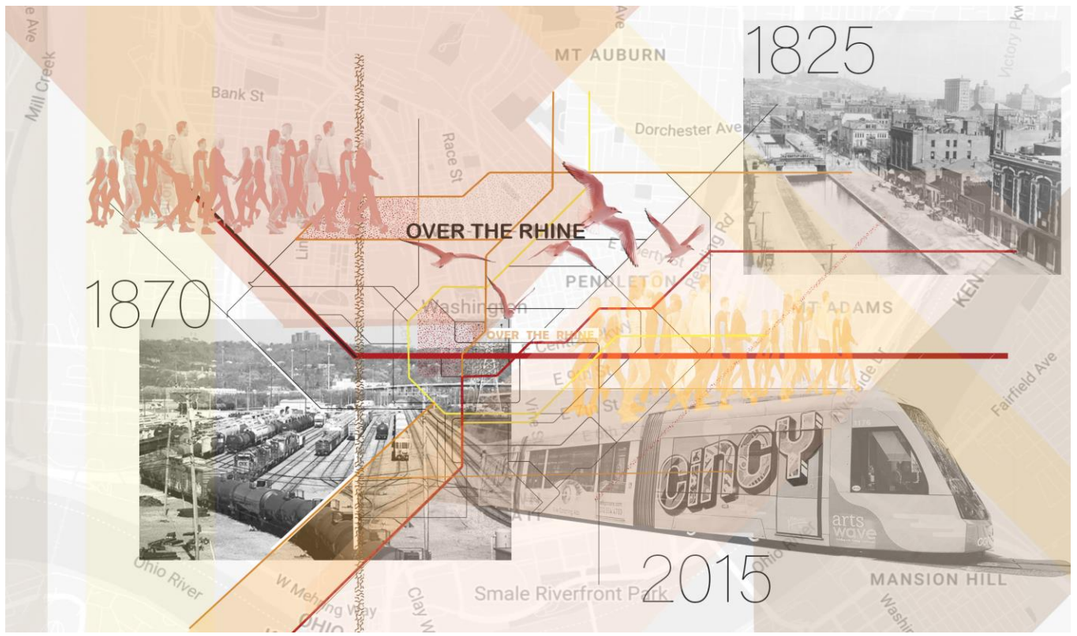
LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Sarah Adams*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed museum in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood is an all-glass structure that acts as a luminous counterpoint to the district's historic brick architecture. Its transparent skin reveals the movement of visitors throughout the building, transforming circulation into a visible choreography that animates the streetscape. Inside, clear and textured glass partitions, and multilevel sightlines create an open visual continuity between galleries while maintaining acoustic distinction. The central atrium and its glass bridges allow visitors to see activity above and below, emphasizing connection and spatial fluidity. By framing views of the historic Italianate architecture, surrounding rooftops, and the dense urban fabric of OTR, the museum functions as a living lens of the city, one that dissolves boundaries between public and private space and integrates the energy of the neighborhood into the experience of art and architecture.



Waterways

2026
DAAPcares

Sustainability
Award

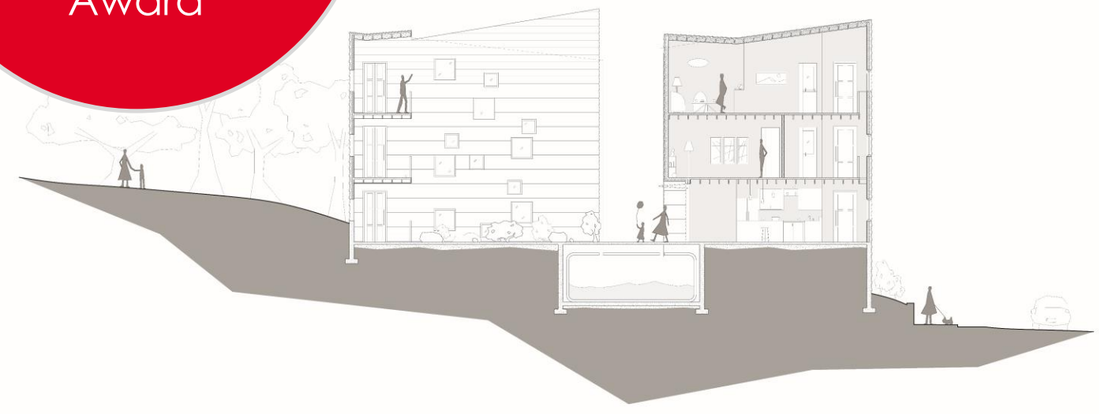
SAID

Block by Block | ARCH 4001 | Instructor: De Peter Yi

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Austin Shenk*



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Waterways provides a sustainable approach to middle housing through increased housing density, shared patios, and rainwater collection. In Cincinnati's temperate months, residents are encouraged to open overhead doors to seamlessly blend interior with exterior, letting the architecture naturally ventilate. The folded roof forms collect rainwater to be filtered and stored for watering gardens or flushing toilets. Located in Cincinnati's South Cummingsville, Waterways provides housing for 5 family units and accommodates 20 individual residents.

The Shellter

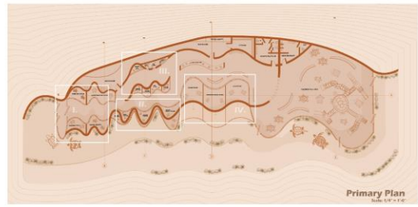
Concrete Surfaces | ARCH 4001 | Instructor: Cristoph Klemmt

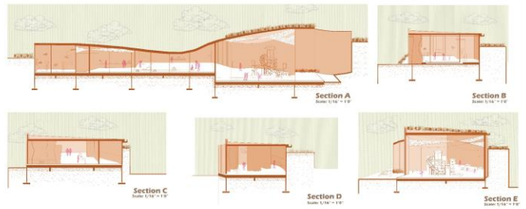
LOCATION: **Pheonix, AZ, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Liv Adkins*

SAID

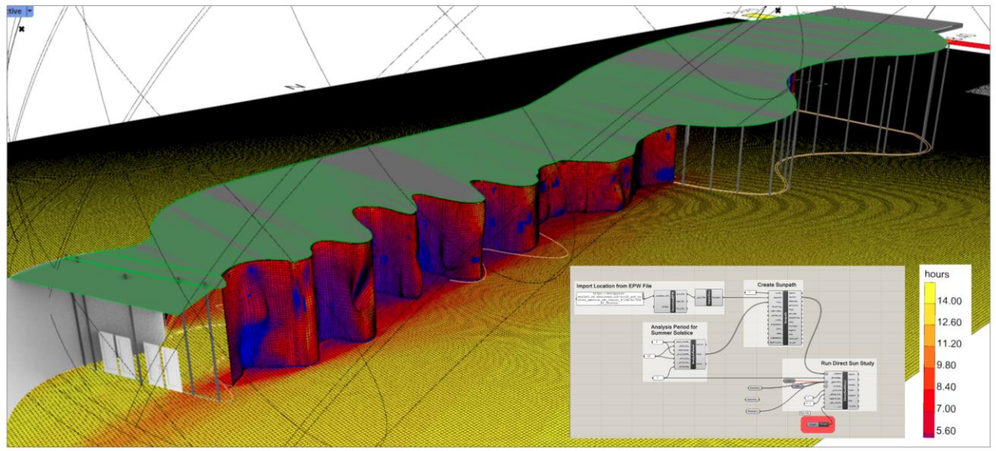




PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Shellter is a climate-responsive turtle habitat in Phoenix, Arizona, designed to support multiple species through passive environmental control. Using three wall systems: a thermal wall, a trombe wall, and a thermal mass wall, the project creates a range of stable microclimates from 50 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, allowing turtles to inhabit zones matched to their thermal needs. By relying on poured concrete, insulation, thermal mass, and passive solar design rather than mechanical systems, The Shellter works with the desert climate to conserve energy and create a resilient, species-centered environment. The project demonstrates how architecture can use environmental analysis and material performance to create sustainable habitats that respond directly to the needs of their inhabitants.

Grasshopper Sunlight Hour Analysis in Phoenix



The Cultivated Table

2026 DAAPcares

Best in School of Architecture & Interior Design

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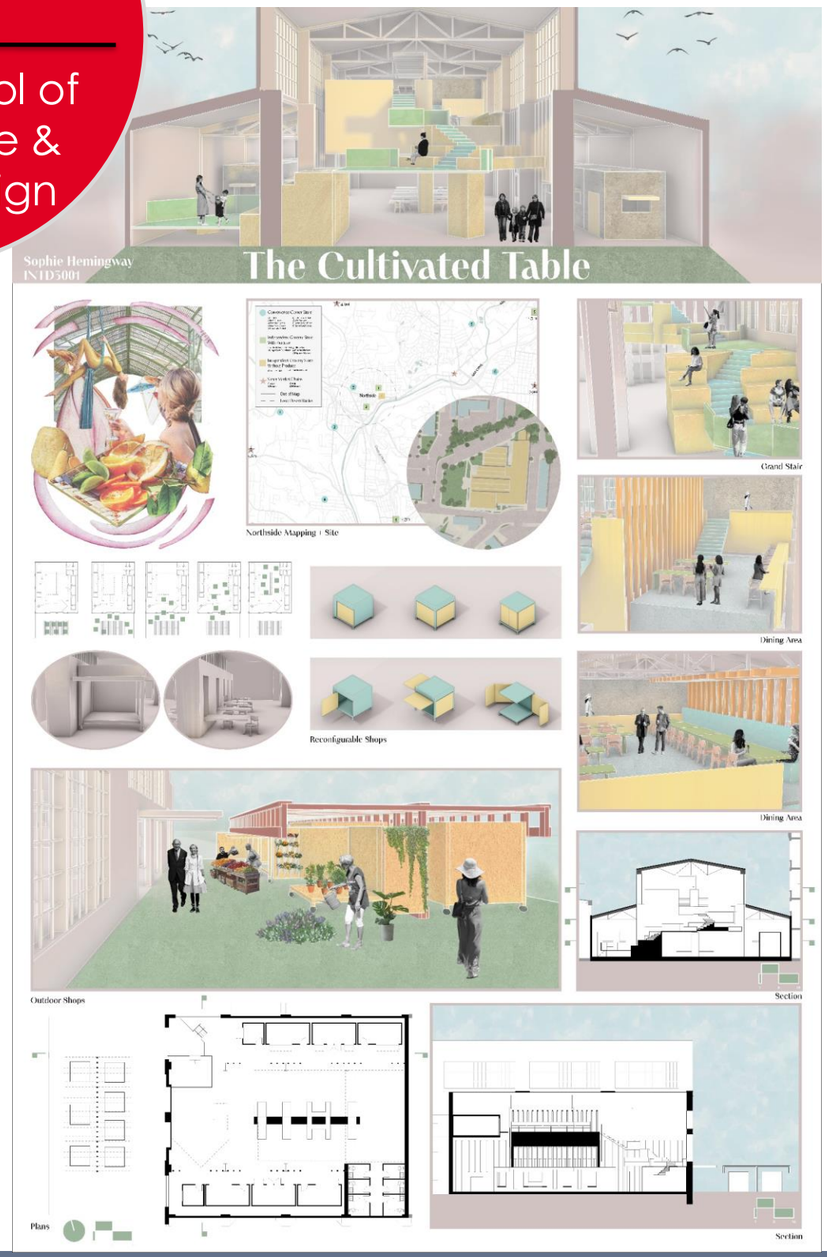
Design Studio 3 | INTD 3001 | Instructor: Anca Matyiku

LOCATION: **Northside, Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Sophie Hemingway*



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes a community-centered restaurant and market grounded in a farm-to-table philosophy, addressing disparities in food access through design. Integrating dining, retail, and flexible community spaces, the project reimagines the role of food environments as both social and infrastructural systems. Drawing from research on food accessibility and urban conditions, the design supports local producers while providing consistent access to fresh, healthy food. By bridging community engagement, sustainability, and spatial experience, the project positions food as a catalyst for connection, equity, and long-term resilience.

Turtle Up

Leadership Practicum | ORGL4098 | Instructor: Megan Church-Nally

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Emily Herschelman*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3-month fundraising project with environmental and social justice start up non-profit, Turtle Up. This fund-raising campaign was a multifaceted project across social media, blogs, and newsletters. This project increases student participation in philanthropy across interns' nationwide, creating the next generation of philanthropists.

SOP

PRACTICUM EXPERENCE REVIEW

Author Emily Herschelman

Affiliations Turtle Up (Turtle Up.org)
Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership Practicum

INTRODUCTION

Through out Fall semester 2025, I planned, coordinated, and executed Turtle Up's first ever Giving Tuesday fundraiser (Dec 2- Dec-31, 2025), with the help of fellow turtle Up interns, to raise awareness and critical funds for marine turtle conservation in Ghana. The campaign focused on funding 5 months of Beach Patrols to protect nests, stop poaching, and monitor nesting behavior. Fundraising Goal: $3,000.

OBJECTIVE

Learn skills related to nonprofit organizational leadership, specifically those with social media engagement, coordination, and Fundraising. Using those skills, and coordinating with other interns, put on a successful multifaceted social media campaign to raise $3000 for sea turtle conservation. at the conclusion of the event create a report that sets up future campaign managers for success

ORGANIZATION BACKROUND

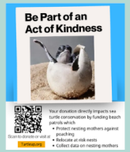
Turtle Up is a startup nonprofit dedicated to protecting sea turtles and marine habitats through education, community engagement, and conservation. Working with partners in Ghana and registared in Ohio, Turtle Up protects nesting beaches, promotes sustainable fishing practices, and supports coastal livelihoods while inspiring collective responsibility for ocean health.

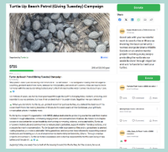
CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

Multi-channel fundraising and awareness approach:

- Corporate Giving: Targeted outreach and follow-ups to potential partners.
- Social Media: Story-driven content highlighting people and turtles behind the mission; coordinated posting calendar across platforms.
- Peer-to-Peer: Interns, alumni, board members, and supporters shared campaign posts.
- Website: Giving Tuesday banner for pre- and post-campaign visibility.
- Newsletter & Blog: Dedicated newsletter and impact blog featuring Joshua, a beach patroller in Ghana.

EARNED MEDIA





RESULTS

Media
- 12 campaign posts
- 5 videos
- 2 letters
- 2 newsletters
- 1 blog

Environmental
- 2 beaches of Kokobite, Ghana protected against poaching, nest drowning, human conflict.
- campaign entirely paperless

Social
- News recognition in Ghana
- 10 interns engaged
- Over 100 new social medai folowes

Data Impact
- 80% new donors
- Largest online campaign to date
- 1 new corporate sponsor

CONCLUSION

This practicum demonstrated how strategic communication, storytelling, and coordination across digital platforms can mobilize support for conservation. While fundraising monatary goals were not met, with only $1,225 raised , the campaign strengthened Turtle Up's visibility through its social media and other followings, expanded its supporter base, and contributed directly to on-the-ground protection of endangered sea turtles in Ghana. Even modest funds and small teams can create real environmental impact when guided by clear strategy, collaboration, and care-centered communication.

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SOP

Managing the Urban Environment – San Juan, Puerto Rico

Book | PLAN 5138/PLAN 6038 | 2026

LOCATION: San Juan, PR

PARTICIPANTS

Instructor: Professor *David J. Edelman*
Students: *Sioban Bracken, Nate Carney, Peyton Foster, Caroline Monaco, Sophia Roberto, Gabriel Silva, Carson Babbit, Caden Bodine, Andrew Fan, Tori Walker- Gulley*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project seeks to improve and manage the urban environment of San Juan, Puerto Rico by focusing on poverty alleviation, industry, energy, transportation, wastewater and solid waste management, and finance. Original ideas are suggested for environmental improvements, and they are also assessed for financial viability.

Pollinator Garden at the Bearcat Pantry Garden

2026
DAAPcares

Best in School of Planning

SOP

Brian Grubb | Net Impact | Seeds of Change Youth Grant

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Instructor: *Brian Grubb*
Students: *Sarah Austgen, Jenniffer Smith*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In collaboration with the City of Cincinnati, School of Planning, Net Impact UC, and Wimberg Landscape Group, Sarah Austgen worked under supervision of Professor Brian Grubb to successfully plan and install three pollinator gardens at the Bearcat Pantry Garden. This collaboration culminated in a volunteer event where ~30 students installed the plants and enjoyed a grill out from the last garden harvest of the season. The project exposed students to the Bearcat Pantry Garden, Bearcat Pantry, and contributed to the ecosystem health and sustainable operations of UC.

SOP

Unexpected Encounters with Nature

Horticulture Senior Capstone | HORT4092 | Instructor: Stevie Famulari

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Lucinda Vandekieft*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

How can green design be implemented into interior spaces in urban settings through typical home decor objects to improve the mental wellbeing of the inhabitants?
The way plants have been utilized in interior spaces has shifted from stand-alone houseplants to incorporating them within functional aspects of the home. This can be seen in interior green walls and indoor gardening. This project expands how green design can be incorporated within home decor items that maintain functionality and promote interaction with natural elements to promote mental well-being. Proximity to the proposed plants has been proven to promote psychological well-being.

SOP

Reimagining Bearcat Gardens

Elements of Urban Design | PLAN6021 | Instructor: Hyesun Jeong, Brian Grubb

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Kelly Maglocci, Ella Chaffee*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our design for this project centers around the concept "what if Bearcat Garden became a neighborhood destination where ecological infrastructure and community gardening connect in an outdoor classroom creating an accessible green space that manages stormwater, cools the environment and supports interactive learning for students and residents?" This vision will transform Bearcat Garden into a multifunctional ecological campus space that combines food production, environmental infrastructure, and social gathering areas.

DAAP

The Stories and Cultures Behind our Favorite Foods

DAAPcares Student Organization 2025-26

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Evelyn Boller, Anna Caito, Sophie Doenges, Abbie Joyce, Kayra Koprulu, Leah Kubitz, Zoe Limbach, Wynnie Serra, Jojo Sulder, Hridaya Varm*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project was created by DAAPcares to explore the connection between food, culture, and identity. Our club began by conducting a survey that asked people about their favorite foods and the meaning those foods have to them. Many of the responses were connected to cultural traditions, family recipes, and memories from home, showing how food can represent much more than just something we eat. We found that even when people come from different backgrounds, they often share similar experiences of food bringing comfort, celebration, and connection

DAAPcares: Activities through the Year

Past events

SOD

Softer Than Flowers, Stronger Than Thunder

Senior Capstone | FASH 4045 | Instructor: Ingoo Kim

LOCATION: **Cincinnati, OH, USA**

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Aleiya Douglas*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Some will swear your emotions hold you back. That the little things don't matter and won't change the outcome or the impact, but they have never felt the true embrace of vulnerability or the comfort in being understood. They have never known the patience of the silent listener or the grounded connection held with the earth. It is a slow burning flame. One that does not dim when it shares its light. Maybe true strength is in the way we treat each other. Maybe having a soft heart isn't weakness, but our greatest power. The only thing that is more powerful than hate, is love.

SOP

Creating Sustainable Cities Through Pedestrian Urbanism

Book | Publisher: Routledge | 2026

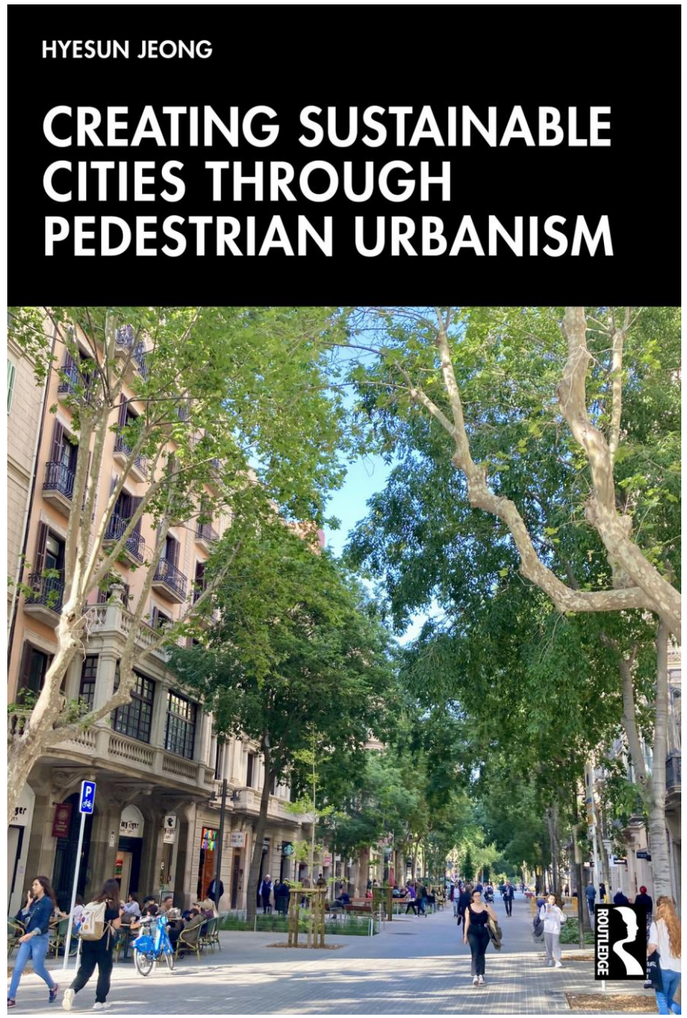
LOCATION: United States, France, Korea

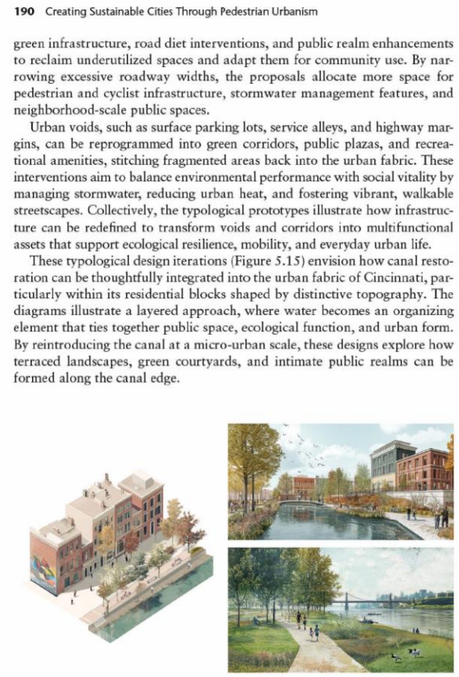
PARTICIPANTS

Faculty: *Assistant Professor Hyesun Jeong*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Creating Sustainable Cities Through Pedestrian Urbanism (Routledge, 2026) explores how cities worldwide are rethinking mobility, place, and belonging in response to climate change and social inequality. Drawing on cases from North America, Europe, and Asia, it examines the shift from car-dominated planning to human-centered, walkable environments that foster environmental sustainability, social connection, and cultural vitality. Through examples such as transit-based cultural programming, festivals, murals, adaptive public spaces, and café culture, the book highlights how everyday urban elements contribute to equitable and livable communities. Aimed at practitioners and engaged citizens, it offers context-sensitive insights into building cities that better serve both people and the planet.





190 Creating Sustainable Cities Through Pedestrian Urbanism

green infrastructure, road diet interventions, and public realm enhancements to reclaim underutilized spaces and adapt them for community use. By narrowing excessive roadway widths, the proposals allocate more space for pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, stormwater management features, and neighborhood-scale public spaces.

Urban voids, such as surface parking lots, service alleys, and highway margins, can be reprogrammed into green corridors, public plazas, and recreational amenities, stitching fragmented areas back into the urban fabric. These interventions aim to balance environmental performance with social vitality by managing stormwater, reducing urban heat, and fostering vibrant, walkable streetscapes. Collectively, the typological prototypes illustrate how infrastructure can be redefined to transform voids and corridors into multifunctional assets that support ecological resilience, mobility, and everyday urban life.

These typological design iterations (Figure 5.15) envision how canal restoration can be thoughtfully integrated into the urban fabric of Cincinnati, particularly within its residential blocks shaped by distinctive topography. The diagrams illustrate a layered approach, where water becomes an organizing element that ties together public space, ecological function, and urban form. By reintroducing the canal at a micro-urban scale, these designs explore how terraced landscapes, green courtyards, and intimate public realms can be formed along the canal edge.

FIGURE 5.15 Conceptual diagram (left) and renderings (right): Canal integrated with green infrastructure in over-the-Rhine and along the Ohio River.

Source: Image created by the author.

Thank you for participating in this year's Showcase Event!

To join the DAAPcares Student Organization please connect through GetInvolved UC.

https://campuslink.uc.edu/organization/daap-cares

Scan the QR code to join