PUBLIC REALM ADDITIONS/PRIVATE REALM subDIVISIONS

The City of Atlanta is sponsoring this 2-part introductory studio in the MS Urban Design program. The first 9 weeks will be focused on improvements to the public realm of South Downtown and the Government District. Poised for huge private investments, (the first in nearly a century,) how can the area's neglected public realm encourage creative renewal and collaboration on a shared future? Pairs of students will prepare plans and mock-ups for immediate implementation on various “gateway” and other strategic sites in consultation with the City’s Planning & Public Works Departments, MARTA, Central Atlanta Progress, the Center for Civic Innovation, Newport US RE, and other stakeholders. The projects will range from temporary tactical urbanist parklets to demonstration pilot projects. Research will focus on three topics: placemaking & building social capital; curb management– especially relative to carhailing and autonomous vehicles; and eco-infrastructure & urban heat island. Integrating their interventions with the life and conditions of the street, students will also prepare plans for redesigning excess right-of-way and streetscaping the block fronts adjacent to their projects.

The second project moves out to the city’s southwest suburbs and tackles the question: how can infill properties in residential neighborhoods be subdivided and developed to both introduce new amenities, connectivity, building types, uses, and higher density while protecting the city’s beloved tree canopy? In the process, students will learn the fundamentals of platting new streets, blocks, and lots while working with topography, drainage, and preserving trees. Students will re-plat the largely tree-covered site at the intersection of Lynhurst Drive and Cascade Road and propose a range of possible development scenarios for both community feedback and to inform the City of Atlanta’s City Design Project and rezoning recommendations.