ARCHE WORKS

Educator, Catalyst, and Incubator for Transformational Design in the Public Interest.

Sustainable Urban Design Certificate Program

Enhancing Rider Experience at Ogilvie
Partner: Regional Transportation Authority
We are partnering on a year-long design challenge with the Regional Transportation Authority to improve accessibility and wayfinding at Ogilvie Transportation Center. Using field research and participatory design methods, the team will propose a set of integrated strategies to enhance the rider experience, improve connectivity to nearby public transit, and strengthen the station’s role as a welcoming gateway and amenity for visitors, commuters, and downtown residents.

Community Garden Design Innovation
Partner: NeighborSpace
We are collaborating with NeighborSpace, a non-profit land trust that provides long-term protection for more than 85 volunteer-run vegetable, flower and prairie gardens across Chicago neighborhoods. The Archeworks team is conducting in-depth field research and interviews with experienced and novice community gardeners. During this year-long community design initiative, the team will prototype working models and identify best practices to strengthen community engagement, improve garden productivity and communication, and promote this city-wide network of gardens with the public.

Building Accessible and Equitable Food Systems
Partners: Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Growing Power
In 2012-13, we continued our multi-year partnerships with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago’s Stroke Center and Growing Power. The Archeworks design team proposed strategies to strengthen relationships between ‘eaters and feeders’ and connect Growing Power’s Iron Street Farm and its urban farm network with Chicago’s food desert neighborhoods. Working with Growing Power’s Youth Corps, the team designed a food awareness poster campaign featuring urban farmers, a branding strategy for the Youth Corps’ handmade organic product line, and a user-friendly wayfinding and educational signage system for Iron Street Farm that can be easily replicated and installed at other urban farm sites. The team, which included a stroke survivor and occupational therapist from the RIC, also brought attention to the need for improved access to healthy, affordable local food by people of all ages and abilities. Drawing from numerous user experience interviews, they devised a prototype adaptive market basket for easy produce pick-up by people with physical challenges and proposed a universally-designed hoop house to accommodate gardeners using wheelchairs.

BECOME A DONOR
Invest in Archeworks by renewing your support or becoming a first-time donor. Your tax deductible gift will support scholarships for emerging designers enrolled in our programs and our talented team of design educators. Larger individual gifts and corporate contributions underwrite public lectures, symposia, and exhibits.
New Programs

Chicago Expander: Workshops + Public Programs
Last year Archeworks launched the Chicago Expander, a platform for designers to engage in research and critical discourse on regionalism. In the program’s inaugural year, three workshops challenged conventional readings of micro-geographies, boundaries, and systems that form the Chicago region. Region formation processes were explored by examining the Chicago area through the lenses of energy, economy, agency, and transportation. On December 18th, we will hold a public program and release a publication highlighting this research. In 2014, the Chicago Expander will offer two new workshops investigating Chicago’s unique assets and region making systems. For information on February and April workshops, please see archeworks.org/chicagoexpander.

New Practice Program: Seminar Series
The Archeworks New Practice program provides a framework to develop, test, and integrate new models of socially-engaged design work into professional practice. These facilitated peer-to-peer seminars have engaged over 35 mid-and senior-level design practitioners from diverse disciplines representing a range of large firms and small design consultancies. We will offer the next month-long New Practice seminar in February. Later in 2014, a New Practice public symposium will feature designers sharing first-hand experiences from this program and its influence on their practice.

New Practice Partnership with Columbia College: Digital Ateliers
A multidisciplinary team of Archeworks New Practice designers is providing advisory assistance to Columbia College’s Convergence Academies on a federally-funded digital media learning initiative at two Chicago Public Schools. Through user-centered workshops and space design strategies, the New Practice team is engaging students and teachers at Tilden High School and Morrill Elementary to create state-of-the-art Digital Ateliers. The team is also producing a tool kit that other schools can use to develop student digital media centers through participatory design. We are delighted this accomplished group of architects, engineers, graphic designers and design strategists is contributing their time and talent to this innovative school reform initiative.

Elemental Mud: Workshop Series + Film Salon
Our Elemental Mud Program offered a series of workshops that incorporated regenerative natural systems into urban design. Led by ecological systems designer Nance Klehm, workshop participants investigated urban soil health and remediation, rainwater catchment, and greywater conservation systems. Participants created site-based design interventions in collaboration with several community partners: Inspiration Kitchens in Garfield Park, the Rebuilding Exchange, and Gingko Organic Gardens in Uptown. The year-long program included a four-part WasteStreams Film Salon. Audiences screened and discussed over 15 short films and documentaries addressing urban landfills, waste water, and food waste.

Earth Cavities | Soil Horizons Installation
The Elemental Mud program culminated with a multi-site interactive installation at the Chicago Park District’s Women’s Park and 6018 North, an experimental exhibition space in Uptown. The public was invited to observe and explore these large hand-dug cavities and to learn about the biological disturbance and regeneration specific to each urban site.

Good City Group: Journey Mapping to Improve Transit Rider Experience
A multi-stakeholder group from design firms, universities and public sector agencies is exploring imaginative strategies for expanding mobility and linkages across multiple modes of train, bus and bike transit in the city and suburbs. Interests include bridging infrastructure gaps and discontinuities across transit systems, new forms of multi-purpose transit hubs, and enhancing the flexibility and accessibility of public transit. This fall, the group prototyped an on-line survey, which will be used to collect diverse journey experiences from the public.

Shoebox Lunch: Innovative Multi-Sensory Audio Book
In summer 2013, we hosted the release of Shoebox Lunch, a multi-sensory book-in-a-box created by Archeworks Fellow Fereshteh Toosi. Accessible to people of low or no vision, this interactive audio book engages the senses of touch, taste and smell, while highlighting soul food traditions, southern roots and connections to Black history. Shoebox Lunch is part of Garlic & Greens, a multidisciplinary design and oral history project conceived and launched at Archeworks in 2010. Please visit garlicandgreens.info for more information.

Humanizing Technology: Universally Designed Software
Archeworks Fellow Patrick Cunningham explored interactive technology and human-centered design for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. Inspired by our universal design partnership with the RIC’s Stroke Center, he piloted an educational workshop inviting stroke survivors, occupational therapists, and technology entrepreneurs to test prototype software and provide feedback to designers. The workshop raised awareness of the need for innovative design strategies and tools to empower and improve the daily lives of stroke survivors.

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Contact • 625 North Kingsbury Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654 • T 312.867.7254 • F 312.867.7260 • www.archeworks.org