

RATIO – Integrative Design Studio

Illinois School of Architecture (ISoA)
Graduate Level
Fall 2024 Semester

Primary Studio Leads

Nita Christopher, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, LFA
Adam S. Groth, AIA, LEED GA, NCARB (ISoA M.Arch 2007)

Studio Description

Participation in the practice-grounded studio will provide students the opportunity to partner with the international architectural firm, RATIO, a leader in design-thinking, innovation, and sustainability. Together we will explore ways to design an integrated project thoughtfully and comprehensively with an emphasis on interdisciplinary practice. We will seek to artfully stitch together the site, the building, and its systems in a sustainable manner to achieve Net Zero. There will be opportunities to challenge building typology norms and independently research and design high-performing building envelope systems. The studio will prioritize designing solutions tailored to the health and well-being of users while carefully responding to the immediate context and community at large.

Working in small teams, students will be guided by local practicing architects based in RATIO's Champaign studio. Students will spend extended time working and collaborating in the downtown studio environment enhancing the exposure to architectural practice.

They will interface with interdisciplinary design leaders and practitioners including landscape architects, urban planners, interior designers, structural engineers, and MEP engineers.

Project Statement

Design a Community Center in Central IL that will provide its underserved population with equitable access to wellness, recreation and educational opportunities. The facility will serve as a community resource bringing various amenities under one roof and providing value beyond its core functions. It will be driven by a conscious response to sustainability through the performance areas of the Living Building Challenge.

Learning objectives

- Students will develop an appropriate socially driven response to context and community.
- Students will gain an understanding of professional architectural practice grounded in interdisciplinary exchange.
- Students will research and integrate the Living Building Challenge as a measure of sustainability.
- Students will use an intentional and iterative process to inform their final design solutions.



RATIO DESIGN
102 S NEIL ST
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

RATIODESIGN.COM

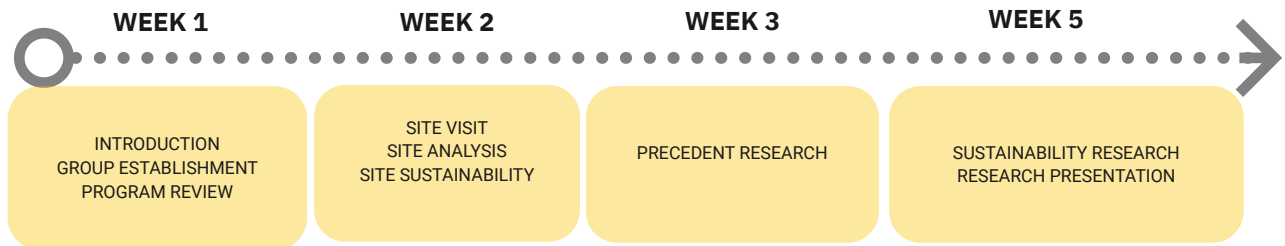
**Design
for
Impact.**

INDIANAPOLIS
CHICAGO
DENVER
RALEIGH
CHAMPAIGN, IL
MILWAUKEE

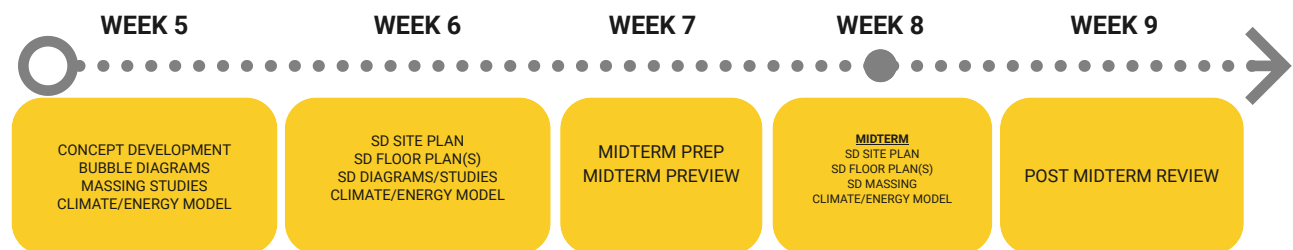
Fall Schedule

August

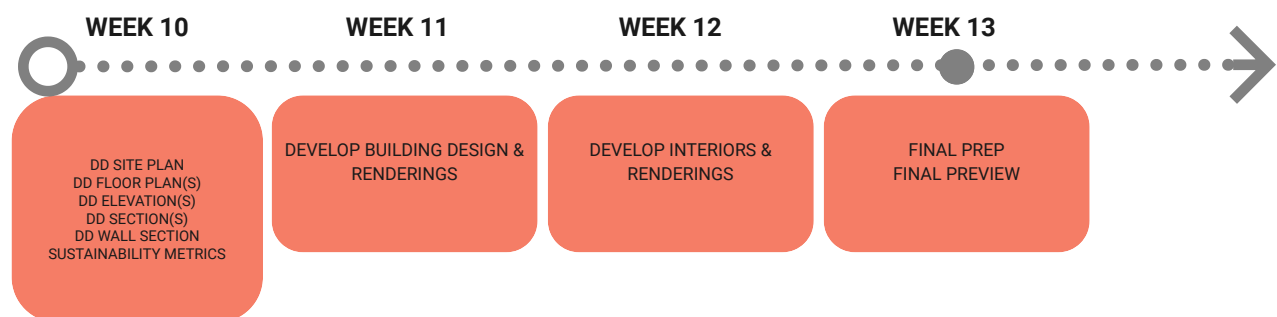
September



October



November



December

