

Spring 2019 Columbia University  
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation  
**Advanced IV Studio** - A4104, Section 003  
**Professor:** Amina Blacksher [asb2270@columbia.edu](mailto:asb2270@columbia.edu)

M / Th 01:30–06:30 p.m.

W 03:00–05:00 p.m. Lectures in Avery 114, Ziad Jamaledine with Faculty

## The Arts and the Academy



Photo: Courtesy of Newburgh Performing Arts Academy

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The studio will examine the potential for art to function as a catalyst for change. Specifically, the studio will examine the role of the institution, the Academy, as a host for harnessing talent, social vitality, civic engagement, and enduring economic prosperity. Organizational structures of precedent academies will be studied to understand the physical and non-physical architecture that facilitate or allow the institution to affect change on a scale greater than the building itself; the society.

Final projects will expand the capacity of the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy and propose a new institutional (infra)structure, physical and organizational, contributing to a vibrant Newburgh.

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*If we are to understand culture as dynamic and constantly changing, there is an implication that a learning environment's relationship with its surrounding culture must constantly be asserted, negotiated and adapted. [The Guild organizational structure of] samba schools highlight some of the specific characteristics that help them maintain a discourse with their surrounding communities and also perpetuate their cultural significance.*

- José Pablo Zagal and Amy S. Bruckman



#### **SAMBA SCHOOLS**

Samba schools are associations of people often from the same neighborhood and bring a sense of community and belonging. Rather than actual teaching institutions they are guilds that awaken respect and pride.

## **Studio Organization**

Studio work includes three overlapping tasks which will be undertaken in groups or individually:

**Topic research:** Introduction to history, rezoning and future of currently vacant Newburgh industrial/warehouse sites; overview of the relationship between industry and surrounding community. Research will include review of Newburgh City designated landmark buildings to ascertain structural viability for reuse.

**Precedent Institutional Models:** The studio will take a comprehensive view of a range of institutional models to survey, dissect and understand the organizational possibilities of the academy and its potential for social, civic and economic impact. As a conceptual framework for analysing the constancy of change, or gentrification cycles, the methodology for testing spatial strategies will employ **additive** and **subtractive** fabrication techniques.

#### **Building space/infrastructure design:**

site analysis, program refinement, context diagram, building new construction or reuse.

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**Site Visit:** Information on studio visit to Newburgh sites will be available early in the new year.

**Deliverables:** a complete description of deliverables (with due dates) will be available early in the new year. Each deliverable will be issued with evaluation criteria.

**Background material, program and site info and reading list:** will be posted early in the new year.

**Artist movements referenced:**

Soho, NY 1980s  
Renaissance Harlem 1920s  
Performance Art Movement, Bauhaus - 1920s

**Precedent Institutional Models:**

Samba Schools - Rio de Janeiro  
Bauhaus - Dessau  
Ecole des Beaux Arts - Paris  
Escuela des Bellas Artes - San Miguel de Allende  
Brooklyn Academy of Music - Brooklyn  
Newburgh Armory Unity Center - Newburgh

**Studio Collaborators:**

Newburgh Performing Arts Academy  
Newburgh Industrial Development Agency

