



Summer Workshop: ENVISIONING A NYC TECH CORRIDOR
Course #
SUMMER 2016

Instructors:

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Teaching Assistants:

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TBD

DATES: Full-time August 1 - 12

LOCATION:

Project: Between Columbia University's campuses & other technology nodes on the UWS.

Campus Base: GSAPP NYC campus:

WORKSHOP SUMMARY:

To envision a "technology corridor" (similar to Kendall Square, Cambridge, for example) which connects the existing Columbia University campuses, biotech research and other such facilities in the neighborhood of the Upper West Side (UWS) of Manhattan. Starting with a spatial-economic analysis of the existing nodes of tech research, potential strategies for the urban evolution of the neighborhood are to be proposed, with such strategies utilizing urban planning and policy constructs (such as zoning, funding incentives, employment & housing programs, design directives, etc.) to encourage and orchestrate private development. These proposals will be subjected to design, economic and social evaluations.

Format: Project format combining planning policy and design solutions interacting with financial analysis. Can include students from Architecture, Planning, Urban Design, MSRED.

Output & Deliverable: Exhibition of research and proposals with engagement of Columbia University Strategic Planning, potentially EDC, and TBS in discussion.

DETAILS OF COURSE:

The course has three parts: typology analysis, subject precinct analysis, and producing a proposed framework for an UWS technology precinct.

Students will work as a team, or as smaller groups to pursue specific issues.

Class meeting times will comprise an hour each day (in Avery 115), in addition to attending meetings, site visits, and presentations.

Students will have the use of as their base studio.

Final presentation of work will be in Avery 115 on Friday August 12 11am – 2pm.

SCHEDULE (subject to some variation)

Week 1:

First Class meeting: August 1 10am – noon, Avery 115

Monday August 1 – Wednesday August 3:

Typology Research: Existing technology precincts have arisen in NYC and other parts of the USA, and indeed globally: in NYC, Flatiron area (F-train corridor) and Brooklyn Tech; in USA, Kendall Sq, Cambridge
(In Groups of 2)

Examine these existing typologies with respect to:

Siting: reasons & constraints

Formation and evolution

Core dynamic

Key components of the functioning

Connections with community, neighborhood, city & region

Failures or missteps

Readings:

The Great Reset

HR& A Report on F-train corridor

NYC meetings:

Brooklyn Downtown Partnership (Tucker Reed or Alan Washington)

Potential Flatiron district City Planning or EDC coverage

Site Visits:

F-train corridor

Brooklyn Tech

Deliverable:

Written report with Info-graphic presentation of key findings.

Thursday August 4 – following Monday August 8:

Subject Precinct Analysis:

Macro-context:

Review NYC regional plans and Plans by NYC Planning Dept and NYS EDC.

Precinct Status Report:

Describe relevant development activities to date including:

Columbia University's campuses

CCNY Nanotech Campus

Major commercial developments

Trends in residential development

Community Boards and activities

Meetings:

Columbia University Campus Planning department

Community Board representatives

Site Visits:

Columbia University campuses and neighborhood edges

CCNY campus and edges

Broadway subway stops

Other major infrastructure

Major development projects (TBD)

Deliverable:

Visual report describing key aspects of subject precinct relevant to potential Tech Corridor

Tuesday August 9 – Friday August 12:

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING AN UWS TECH CORRIDOR

Given an understanding of the typology of the technology precinct, and an assessment of the situation of the UWS with respect to its potential to be such a precinct, propose a framework for further planning and discussion of a Technology Precinct. This framework is to incorporate:

Spatial dynamic for the precinct

Urban Design formulation

Urban Policy suggestions

Roles of key or anchor entities

Community engagement methodology

Further questions and enquiries

Deliverable:

Visual, written and verbal presentation in Avery 115 on Friday August 12 at 11 – 2pm.

This workshop and its outcome will be integral to the on-going research project, TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR UWS MANHATTAN, at the Center for Urban Real Estate (CURE.)