“challenging the status quo”

an architectural exhibition
what is architectural science?

The Architectural Science Program at BCIT is a four-year technical degree program that is a continuation of the ABET Diploma Program. Within the degree, students combine the technical and the creative sides of architecture into their projects through both group and individual work. Building science, structural, mechanical and technical detailing are combined with theory, design, conceptual planning and urban strategies to provide students with a balanced perspective and creative approach to problem solving. Students are encouraged to explore their passions and ideas of architecture and the built environment through physical modeling, sketching, research, discussion and digital analysis. A large component of our curriculum involves understanding the global challenges regarding sustainability and the responsibility of architects in today’s world. We have incorporated several concepts of sustainability within our projects which reflect Vancouver’s goal to become the greenest city in the world by the year 2020.
‘Challenge the status quo’, what does that even mean? To challenge the norm perhaps would be one way to say it, but in our studio it is just a daily re-occurrence. Every day we strive to push the boundaries and every day we think to ourselves “what if”. What if the streets were different, what if the things and processes of today would no longer exist tomorrow, how would tomorrow’s reality feel compared to today’s. This type of thinking then gets applied to every project in our studio and voila, the extraordinary possibility of what the future might look like is born.
A special thanks to all our guest critics and presenters that helped us along the way!
As a group we have perhaps chosen one of the most difficult intersections in Vancouver to implement our urban design strategies on, Hastings Street and Clark Drive. Through this difficulty we have created a gateway and a catalyst for change in the neighborhood. By promoting pedestrian walk-ability, bringing crucial amenities, introducing a new human scale and focusing on creating a sense of place we have redefined what that area is to become. A more versatile and inclusive neighborhood; this is not a strategy to gentrify but instead to become more inclusive of a demographic that Vancouver has forgotten about.
CO-HOUSING AT CLARK

brian harvey

The focus of Co-Housing at Clark is to blur the boundaries of the spaces in which we live and learn. As a byproduct of utilizing shared spaces, multiple generations of people intermingle more, increase their social skills and enhance their knowledge of common infrastructural strategies. Utilizing this multi-generational participation, the community becomes more sustainable, consuming fewer resources in the process. The integration of new technologies and public visibility allows younger generations to determine their own interests and affords them the opportunity to actively implement sustainable strategies into everyday life.

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sparse youth population of Grandview-Woodwards, in hopes of revitalizing the adolescence that was once the backbone of this edge rough neighborhood. The design permeates interest scale welcome to a new clark dr

once in the gym fit pit
Target Youth is a community center specifically aimed at the sparse youth population of Grandview-Woodlands, in hopes of revitalizing the adolescence that was once the backbone of this edge rough neighborhood. The design draws on the vernacular of the area, from the dingy box warehouses, barred windows and the materiality which holds the area together while at the same time trying to juxtapose youthful moves within. It seeks to create an atmosphere of togetherness so that all can grow together to build a better backbone for the society to thrive on.

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The Eco-Modular Building is a 6-storey wood structure that symbolizes sustainability within the structure and in the building program. Located in the industrialized zone of Grandview Woodland, the building beautifies the area by promoting electronic recycling, providing living spaces, and injecting art into the local culture. The structure features two-storeys of exposed glulam post-and-beam that supports four-storeys of prefabricated CLT modules finished with a large overhanging roof deck. A central skylight atrium interconnects all residential floors and the mezzanine art gallery illuminating the interior with natural light.

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FOOD+HOUSING

Gen Sugiyama

Food+housing is a generator of life and community. It is a gateway, a link, and a catalyst that will revitalize and enrich a lifeless area that has long been forgotten. Life is brought to the area through its vibrant yet subdued form that energizes the area without undermining its context. The program consists of a fresh food market and affordable residences. Public spaces are arranged to promote a sense of community within the building and within the surrounding neighbourhood. Compact residential suites are supplemented by a large central amenity space that also acts to buffer the noise from Clark Drive.

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GROUP #2

hastings & commercial

An architectural intervention focuses on bridging the existing divide of Hastings by improving the public realm and introducing social and commercial uses into the neighborhood. The ultimate aim of the development is to revitalize the area, creating a balanced and vibrant neighborhood connected to the existing community. At the core of the proposal is the idea of forming a festival pedestrian zone on Commercial North of Hastings. Through balance of commercial and community uses the area will become a destination at the foot of Commercial bringing people, arts and culture back into the neighborhood.
THE EAST VAN HUB

ross komnatski

East Van Hub is a place for creative cultural expression and a forum for social interaction. It provides a venue for public gathering open to the many community groups active in Commercial Drive area and beyond. At the heart of the facility are two black box theaters and a rooftop event space supported by multipurpose rehearsal spaces. These are available to groups and individuals for dance, theatre and music rehearsal and performance. The social center of the Hub is a grand corner atrium that creates a vertical urban living room welcoming the public right at Commercial and Hastings.

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Un-sustainability is over-consumption. What if the public knew who, what, where and how their energy and water became? The redevelopment of Grandview-Woodlands provides not only an opportunity to renew place and people; but to also renew attitudes towards the future. The School is the “heart of the machine”. The Machine cannot function without the skilled operators. Demonstrating these alternative energy and water processes to the public will be the job of the students at the school. Local, under-utilized people now have the opportunity to retrain and be proud contributors to the future community.
ART GALLERY

anton melnikov

The Commercial and Hastings Art Gallery project takes the advantage of the corner site to introduce art culture to this industrial neighborhood. 4-storeys of flexible gallery space along with 3 workshops provide opportunity for people to view, learn, create and even display the art pieces themselves. The exterior ribbon extends the gallery into the circulation space and makes a connection between interior and exterior audience. Gift shop, café and lounge areas located in between two major uses support them and provide amenity spaces for gallery patrons and students.

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SOCIAL SERVICES CENTER

cory rose

The social services center features a homeless shelter, low-income housing units and a culinary school. The synergy between the programmes is the essence of the building; homeless individuals come from the street into the shelter, which is fed by the culinary school. When ready, they can move to the low-income housing units and potentially study and work in the culinary school and give back to the homeless shelter. The big idea behind this building is enriching the lives of people in need, supporting them, and giving them a meaningful life where they can make a difference.

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GROUP #3

hastings & victoria

The intersection of Hastings and Victoria spans an uneasy divide between two distinct conditions: austere industrial warehouses and tranquil residential dwellings. The projects soften this transition by selecting context-appropriate programme and materials. The main ideas are to create an educational district linking to the nearby school, and to allow pedestrian flow through both a dynamic courtyard and a mid-block path linking Hastings to the pedestrian-accessible lane. The buildings operate as a single unit; sharing energy and other infrastructure to catalyze a sustainable and thriving community.
The Youth Skate + Lounge project works to provide youth with a place to connect, build skills, and stay fit. Multiple skateparks take advantage of the corner site condition by promoting architectural clarity and visual intrigue. The ideas of freedom and self-expression generated from this main floor condition spread upward to inform the higher level floor spaces. A residential top floor provides a welcoming retreat for troubled youth that need a temporary home. Youth Skate + Lounge fosters a sense of community and inspires youth to interact, learn, and think big.
THE INTERACTION

adam chambers

The Interaction is a place of social interaction and learning. A large part of learning comes from what others teach us, not what we teach ourselves. The Interaction is designed around spaces where varying sizes of groups can come together and learn. This learning extends to the building itself, which through its various sustainable systems will educate the community on what is possible for a building to be and how different systems can work together to achieve a better result. The Interaction makes a connection with the project Music Brewing through a courtyard that serves as an outdoor community space.

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GlassWerks Studio consists of two major functions: a public glass-blowing studio and private residential units. Along Hastings Street, the glass studio announces itself as a public and educational element, while also serving as a thermal core where waste heat is distributed throughout the building. At the lane, the café and residential units have southern exposure to reinforce a pedestrian scale. To connect Hastings and the lane, the building pulls back to open a mid-block passage - creating pedestrian permeability in a dense urban fabric.

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MUSIC BREWING

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group: 4

MUSIC BREWING redefines the concept of a performance venue by creating a symbiotic community of local musicians and beer connoisseurs. Commonalities of both the brewing and music creation processes dictate the project’s hierarchal layout with the creative aspects of the two disciplines located on either side of the central Brewsic Hall. Seeds of musical expression are brought to fruition in the rehearsal suites while on the opposing side artisans and patrons combine specialized rooftop grown ingredients to create hand-crafted beer.
GROUP #4
commercial & franklin

This intersection is farthest north and closest to the port, where bright red cranes are a strong, expressive feature of Vancouver. We wanted to respect the predominantly industrial character while enhancing the pedestrian experience. One method was to utilize the potential of the laneways for occupation during the day, and creating a central urban lounge linking the four corners of our buildings. Industrial cranes and tension cables mimic the appeal of the port while providing street lighting. Grates for storm water collection highlight shared water recycling facilities, and all buildings receive energy from the nearby district energy plant.
A SOCIAL APPROACH

shawn bellamy

group: 4

A Social Approach is a building that aims to tackle several basic needs of people. It provides shelter with low income housing aimed at the area’s demographic. The building also provides both food and water to cover other basic needs in the forms of water treatment and a restaurant. That restaurant is also co-oped into a culinary school that helps educate the building’s low income residents. Lastly the building aims to tackle the complex need of being social, with both interactions within the building and with the community at large. This is a building to serve the people of Grandview-Woodlands.

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WOMB

pera hardy

WOMB is a building of support for women working or living on the streets around the Grandview Woodland area. The concept is of holistic care for women transitioning from desperate situations to more stable ones in a safe, warm environment. Serving the public are a gallery and bakery run by the women of the centre. For the women, there are services such as a clinic, kitchen, laundry, lockers and sleeping areas accessible on a twenty-four hour basis. Higher in the building are temporary residences for single women as well as those with children, as well as a daycare.

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LIVE. WORK. LEARN. MAKE

michael townshend

The craft of woodworking and furniture making was once a thriving industry in Vancouver, however, the desire for cheap prefabricated products has diminished the market for quality furniture. Designers have difficulty showcasing product because their workplaces are usually in industrial areas shut out from public viewing, despite the city’s efforts. The big ideas of the project are to encourage public interaction with individual designers and to provide workers with shared machining spaces, allowing for reduction of start-up costs. Other program components of the design are: tech. ed, a furniture store, and residential suites for workers.

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THE GROWING MACHINE
trevor vilac
group:4
notes:

The Growing Machine is an urban agriculture focused building incorporating: a vertical hydroponic greenhouse, class modules integral to the greenhouse, research labs, farmers market, and a cafe. The intent of this project is to define urban agriculture as a new industrial typology, and to combine agriculture, sustainability and education into an experience to be celebrated. The building as a machine focuses on keeping a closed loop energy and water cycle in order to grow within an urban context and reduce the net environmental impact.

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GROUP #5

commercial & frances

Commercial and Frances is in the transition zone between a commercial and industrial zone. Our goal is to connect these zones, and bring the exciting atmosphere of South Commercial to the North. We hope to amplify the residential community, and create “a living community”. The concept is to become a self-sustainable community, in the way the community interacts, as well as with resources and infrastructure. As a cluster we have implemented a zero waste water and energy system. This will allow us to take advantage of our natural resources, and to give back to the land and to the community.
COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE

viktorija andrievska

Located on the intersection of Commercial Drive and Frances Street, the Community Food Centre is intended to be a neighborhood gathering and educational facility. It incorporates a community market that will be a source of locally grown food for the neighborhood, which in return provides economic opportunities for many small businesses, craftsmen and artists. A quarter of the building consists of the Vertical Garden, a hydroponic greenhouse where plants can be grown all year. This provides the classrooms with educational material on how to grow and take care of plants either in your own greenhouse or backyard garden.

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URBAN MEDITATION AND YOGA

sepi fotoohi

This project is focused around creating intentional community in an urban context through practice of yoga and meditation to achieve physical wellness and inner peace. The program is to create dynamic social spaces and guided yoga meditation classes as well as an urban retreat for people to stay, relax and deepen their practice. Each room has been designed to fulfill a unique experience due to its purpose and has been inspired by the lighting quality of ancient and modern spiritual spaces. The meditation hall is a surprising element in the building as it reveals itself to you through experience of entering the room.

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The Cedar, Co-Housing community is an alternate way of urban living that allows for increased social interaction supported by communal spaces. It is a style of living based on the richness of intergenerational social interaction and living, embracing the values of a diversity of occupants. Social, environmental and economic sustainability is reinforced by common amenities such as a rooftop community gardens, a communal dining hall and kitchen, and a children’s play area. The Cedar aims at reviving diverse social and cultural atmosphere of the neighborhood, while supplying an alternate style of living.

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HEALING GARDENS

hayley spooner

Healing Gardens is a building designed to give patients an opportunity to heal naturally. The centre is for those who are newly disabled to learn to live with their disability and to have a place where they can associate with others going through similar situations. The building allows residents to be connected to nature, not just as a picture frame of nature but rather a series of different experiences. The atrium acts as the central gathering space as well as the main connection to nature, with gardens on each floor as well as a central green wall and water wall.

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Thank you!

Thank you to all who took the time to rummage through this booklet, the fact that you have read and showed interest in our program means a lot to us and we look forward to your comments.

Sincerely

BCIT Architectural Science Class 2013