Fifth-Year Studio Description
The Millennial Plan

When you look at a city, it's like reading the hopes, aspirations and pride of everyone who built it.
Hugh Newell Jacobsen

PREMISE: Of the 23 American cities similar in size to Charlotte, ours is the only one without a Comprehensive Plan to state and guide its aspirational vision. Instead, Charlotte has something called the Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework (adopted in 2010) that is largely organizational and protective in its perspective and purpose.

The absence of a Comprehensive Plan is especially disconcerting as the city is currently engaged in a years-long rewrite of its zoning ordinance, and without a consensus-built vision for the future, the city is flying blind. Marcus Jones, Charlotte’s new city manager has introduced the idea of our being a Winning City, a term coined by John Martin to describe a place with a positive buzz and a shared story, a diverse 15-Minute Livable Community with Affordable Spaces, a Big Tent Magnet for Millennials and people with Open Minds where Being Creative, Innovative, and Accepting of New Ideas is the norm.

Everything architects design falls within the context of urban design and planning, and the ideal in city design has long been a topic widely debated in the profession. Today, in Charlotte, there is an opportunity to influence that context, in the writing of a new Comprehensive Plan for the city, from the perspective of the Millennial generation.

CONTENT: Working with architects, landscape architects, urban designers, historians and city planners, both from the private sector and inside local government, students will research, write and illustrate a Millennial Plan for Charlotte that embraces the city’s Winning City’s principles. The work will be presented to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission and shared with the City Manager’s office, the Mayor and members of Charlotte’s City Council.

EVALUATION & GRADING:
Students will be responsible for the research, design and writing of the Millennial Plan, its presentation to decision makers in Charlotte, its editing and its final production. Grades will be given when specific milestones are met in that process.
• Individual research, design and writing of specific chapters
• Contribution to the overall concept relative to both concept and design
• Engagement of the Millennial Community
• Mid-Term Presentations
• Design Review and Edits
• Final Production

METHODS:
Using social media and their established networks, students will engage their contemporaries in a conversation about the future of Charlotte relative to its environment, diversity, affordability, opportunity and other important topics. They will use The Atlanta City Design: Aspiring to the Beloved Community (ACD) (http://www.atlcitydesign.com/acd_book.html) as a precedent for their work and create a similar document for the City of Charlotte. Specifically, students will outline the core values the city’s Millennials share, and how to leverage the change coming to the Charlotte to their advantage. The third part of the process will embrace the same the goal of the ACD, and result in “a dimensional, tangible, and aspirational form for the city.”

Sample CLASS READINGS:
Quadralectic Architecture: The Ideal City (https://quadralectics.wordpress.com/4-representation/4-1-form/4-1-4-cities-in-the-mind/4-1-4-1-the-ideal-city/)

Is this the Perfect City? BBC (Culture: http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20151211-is-this-the-perfect-city)
The Atlanta City Design: Aspiring to the Beloved Community (ACD) (http://www.atlcitydesign.com/acd_book.html)
Ten Steps in Preparing a Comprehensive Plan (http://plannersweb.com/2000/07/ten-steps-in-preparing-a-comprehensive-plan/)