

# The **bridge**STUDIO

## A Model for New Approaches to Education and Practice

Design in Action 2011, Philadelphia, PA  
 October 9-11, 2011



Above Right: Green Communities, S09

Above Left: The Iowa House, S10

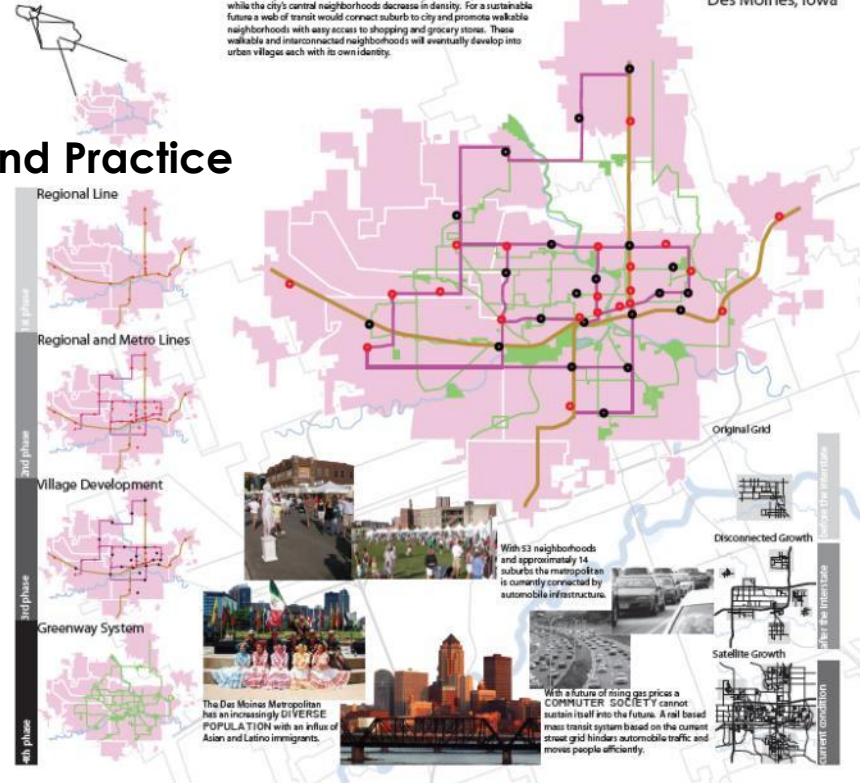
Right: Cedar Rapids modular affordable housing, F08



## A WEB OF URBAN VILLAGES

With an easy commute, the suburbs continue to grow into adjacent farmland while the city's central neighborhoods decrease in density. For a sustainable future a web of transit would connect suburb to city and promote walkable neighborhoods with easy access to shopping and grocery stores. These walkable and interconnected neighborhoods will eventually develop into urban villages each with its own identity.

Des Moines, Iowa





# bridgeSTUDIO Program Structure

## 6 - CREDIT OPTION STUDIO

- 2007-2008: Affordable, sustainable single-family prototype, Des Moines, IA
- Fall 2008: Modular flood-relief housing prototypes, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Spring 2009: Green Communities, Waterloo/Iowa City/Newton/Des Moines, IA
- Spring 2010: The Iowa House, Corning, IA
- Spring 2012: Ellis Boulevard Urban Village

Upper level undergraduate and graduate students  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design  
Graphic Design, Industrial Design

Projects focus on identifying issues and developing environmental and socio-economic tactics for sustainable design.

## PARTNER FIRMS

Interns as team mentors  
Workshops at offices

## NON-PROFIT CLIENTS

“Real world” projects requires synthesis of learning  
Design based on identifying issues to create design projects  
New models, knowledge, understanding developed in partnership with communities



## Curricular Goals

- Promote **RELATIONAL THINKING** as fundamental to design practice (Fry, 2009)
- Build **TEAM**-based understanding of design practice
- Develop **COMMUNICATION** and proactive **LEADERSHIP** skills

## Curricular Methods

- Project **GOALS** established through community **DISCUSSIONS**
- Project goals serve as **DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA** based on **ISSUES**
- Students work in **TEAMS** guided by **INTERNS** from local firms
- Students discuss ideas with **DIFFERENT AUDIENCES** using **DIFFERENT METHODS**
- Students **INTERACT** with a range of **STAKEHOLDERS** (residents, contractors, non-profits, state agencies, material suppliers)



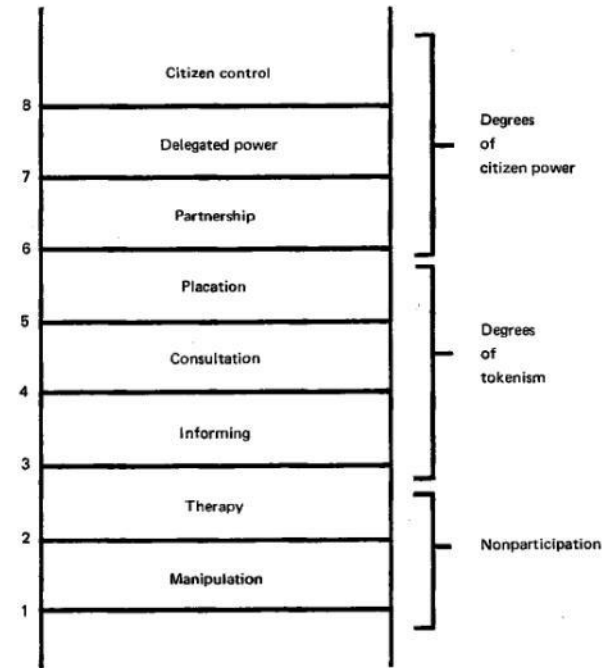
## Community Goals

- Integrate sustainability, affordability, and livability in **HOUSING** and **COMMUNITY DESIGN**
- Provide opportunities for **PARTICIPATION** and **APPROPRIATION** as access to the “right to the city” (Lefebvre, 1996)
- Build **UNDERSTANDING** of **DESIGN** as a **SYSTEMIC** rather than product-based undertaking

## Community Methods

- Gathering **STORIES** to help identify **INFORMAL** systems
- Use **MULTIPLE COMMUNICATION METHODS** – charrettes, door-to-door interviews, neighborhood walks, blogs, salon-style discussions
- Create **CELEBRATIONS** around visits, project benchmarks

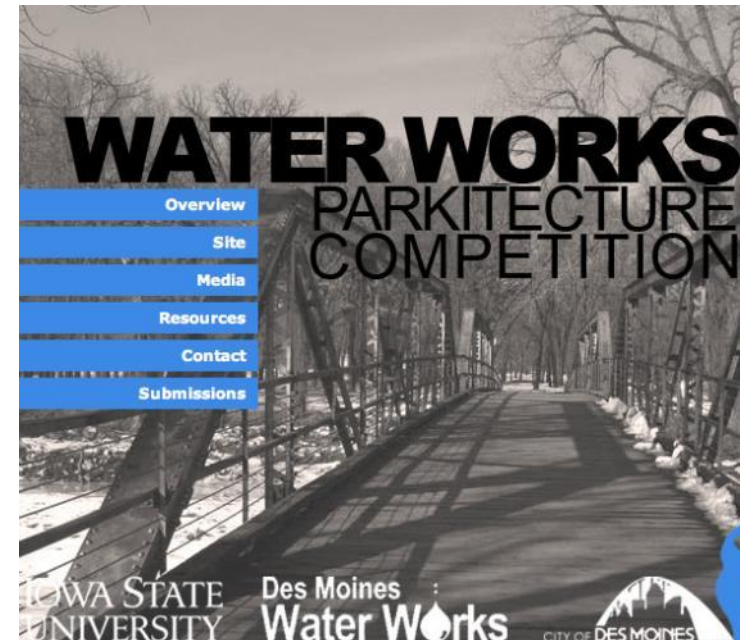
Above: Sherry R. Arnstein, “A Ladder of Citizen Participation” (1969).  
 Below: Grand Opening, The Iowa House, Corning, IA July 2011





## The Future!!!

- ELLIS BOULEVARD URBAN VILLAGE
  - Fall 2011 Village Mapping Project (Urbanism Theory)
  - Spring 2012 Remembering Project/Masterplan/Future Project Articulation (Studio)
  - Summer 2012 Construct Remembering Project
  - ??? Future Project Development
- ISU COLLEGE OF DESIGN COMMUNITY LAB (CDCL)
  - Projects in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Dubuque, Corning
  - Space with equipment
  - Faculty from Architecture and Landscape Architecture
  - Interns (begin summer 2012)
  - Graduate Assistantships
  - Future staff position





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## References

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