

Flourishing Communities

Westside Neighborhood – English Avenue: Building a Sustainable
Community through Design and Technology

Project Lead(s):

Julie Ju-Youn Kim, Associate Professor; Associate Chair, School of Architecture; Director,
Undergraduate Program, Georgia Tech

Danielle Willkens, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Georgia Tech

Tarek Rakha, Assistant Professor; Director, High Performance Building Lab, Georgia Tech

Project Work Location:

Georgia Institute of Technology Campus, Atlanta, GA

Project Description:

The work from this class supports a funded design and research project that addresses the socioeconomic and technical needs of Westside neighborhood English Avenue. This project leverages existing community resources to develop affordable housing and the establishment of positive neighborhood-based, citizen-centric social impact and equity through technology.

1. We will pursue the development of prototypes for an affordable and sustainable home.
2. We will evaluate advancements in technology, fabrication, and assembly, specifically opportunities for innovative fabrication/assembly initiatives utilizing salvaged components integrated with new materials.
3. We will review energy performance, resiliency, and sustainability of current and proposed constructions with recommendations for actionable energy-saving strategies.
4. We will simulate the comfort and energy performance of developed designs to ensure that affordable design and construction methods do not compromise any sustainability goals.
5. We will work directly with community stakeholders through direct engagement of the processes of investment in local expertise, design, and construction.

Project Learning Goals:

1. Introduce students to collaborative and participatory community engagement processes

2. Introduce students to understanding the diverse needs, social and spatial patterns that characterize different cultures and individuals and the responsibility of the architect to ensure equity of access to sites, buildings, and structures.
3. Understand shared values of the discipline and profession, especially in relation to design, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and community engagement

Top Desired Intern Skills:

Proficient in Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign); able to work well on team projects; familiarity with basic woodshop tools; responsible and conscientious