

DSGN 4020 Design Studio 5: Collaborative Projects – Projects Overview

As stated in the course outline, this class is structured around four themed projects. For each project, students will be given an opportunity to choose from several suggested approaches, or to propose their own course of action. For group projects, this will happen in consultation with the group. This open-ended approach is intended to allow students to investigate their own areas of interest within the scope of each project, and to engage and challenge students on a fourth-year level. Please note that all dates are tentative.

Project 1: Local Communities, Local Issues (Sept. 15 - Oct. 2)

For the first project, students will look to local communities and personal experience to identify issues or problems that might benefit from a design solution. Working in groups, students will identify an opportunity, research, propose and design a solution, and present their work. In-class presentations and discussion will focus on developing research and collaborative skills.

Project 2: The Future is Already Here (Oct. 6 - 23)

This project will examine design practice, process, and possibilities in the context of current new media trends. In-class presentations and discussions will focus on concepts such as open source, Creative Commons, social networking, augmented reality, crowdsourcing, and user-generated content. Students will work in groups to identify a design opportunity within the scope of this theme, research, propose and design solutions, and present their work.

Near the end of October, the class has the opportunity to take part in a design charette. One week between projects 2 and 3 is tentatively scheduled for this purpose. If necessary, the class will take a one-week break from project 2 to participate in the charette.

Project 3: Working with a Local Client (Nov. 3 - 20)

For this project, students from both Collaborative Projects classes (A and B) will be given an opportunity to work with various local organizations or individuals who have approached the NSCAD Design division with design requests. Depending on the client and the scale of each project, the end result of this project might be a finished design or a refined prototype. For this project, students will work individually.

Project 4: Digital Environments (Nov. 24 - Dec. 11)

For the final project, students will work individually or in groups on a web-based design project. Class presentations and demos will focus on aspects of web and interaction design, including accessibility, content management, web collaboration, mobile media, and the semantic web. Students are welcome to approach this project as an opportunity to design and develop a web portfolio of their work.