



Land Acknowledgement: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-teachings/territorial-land-acknowledgement>

Course Number: DSGN 302

Course Name: Trans-scalar Studio MEDIUM: Artist Stables

Classroom: [REDACTED]

Instructor: Khalid Omokanye

- Email: khalidahmed.omokanye@ucalgary.ca
- Phone: n/a
- Office Hours and Location: By appointment, in person at [REDACTED] or via zoom
- Instructor Email Policy: Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours excluding weekends and statutory holidays.

Class Dates: All in-person, Tuesdays and Fridays, Sep2 – Dec 5, 1:00pm to 4:50pm

Course Description:

Artist Stables investigates how infrastructure can serve as a scaffold for layered, adaptable, and ecologically responsive modes of occupation. Set within Calgary's Beltline—a district marked by its creative energy, urban density, and infrastructural complexity—students will design a cluster of artist studios that foreground adaptability, cohabitation, and ecology.

The “artist stable” is not imagined as a static building but as a system: capable of transformation, growth, and responsiveness to environmental and social conditions. Students will explore alternative models of space-making that foreground time, flexibility, and ecology as primary design drivers.

Through fast-paced, iterative design exercises, students will develop experimental ideas at small and urban scales, culminating in a final proposal that situates an artist stable cluster within the Beltline context.

Academic Calendar description: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1656081>

Course Hours: 6 units (0-4)

Requisites: See [Section 3.3.5](#) of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.

- Prerequisite(s): DSGN 203
- Corequisite(s): DSGN 311

Course Delivery:

- In-person Delivery

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:

1. Explore architecture as a system of growth, layering, and transformation.
2. Investigate relationships between infrastructure, ecology, and creative occupation.
3. Design spaces that foreground adaptability, temporality, and cohabitation.
4. Develop multi-scalar proposals that engage both site infrastructure and human occupation.
5. Communicate architectural ideas through drawings, physical models, and digital media.

Learning Resources:

- Recommended readings, textbooks, and learning materials:

Architecture & Infrastructure

- Stan Allen, *Points + Lines: Diagrams and Projects for the City* (1999) – framing infrastructure as a design medium.
- Keller Easterling, *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space* (2014) – infrastructure as a hidden driver of spatial conditions.
- Atelier Bow-Wow, *Made in Tokyo* (2001) – catalog of informal urban infrastructures.

Adaptability & Ecology

- Stewart Brand, *How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built* (1994) – adaptable systems over time.
- Jeremy Till & Tatjana Schneider, *Flexible Housing* (2007) – adaptability and temporality in housing.
- Kiel Moe, *Integrated Design in Contemporary Architecture* (2008) – ecological cycles and systemic thinking.

- Kate Orff, *Toward an Urban Ecology* (2016) – urban design entwined with ecological systems.

Artist Spaces & Occupation

- Hans Ulrich Obrist (ed.), *A Brief History of Curating* (2008) – creative practices and spaces.
- Theaster Gates, *An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures* (2011) – artistic reuse of urban infrastructures.
- Neri Oxman, *Material Ecology* (2019) – intersections of material systems, ecology, and design.
- Tutorials & Online Resources:
 - **Rhino + Grasshopper**
 - Parametric House (YouTube) – accessible tutorials on modular systems.
 - DesignMorphine – advanced Grasshopper parametric workflows.
 - **Blender**
 - Blender Guru (YouTube) – quick intro for modeling, rendering, and animation.
 - Poly Haven (free textures, HDRIs).
- Technology requirements:
 - Laptop capable of running Rhino, Grasshopper, and Blender smoothly (minimum 16GB RAM recommended).
 - Licensed Rhino software (student license) with Grasshopper plugin.
 - Blender (free, open source).
 - Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) for representation.
 - Access to digital fabrication equipment: laser cutter, 3D printer, CNC router (through school facilities).
 - Sketching tools and physical model-making supplies (cutting mat, X-Acto knives, glue, cardboard, foamcore, chipboard, etc.).
- BDCI Makerspace Training Requirement:
 - If a course requires the use of the BDCI Makerspace, students must complete all relevant online University of Calgary safety courses and the online Trajectory Safety training course to be granted access to the BDCI Makerspace.

Design Studio Health and Safety:

Studios at SAPL are designated as lab-like environments under the University of Calgary's Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) requirements. All students and instructors must comply with both university-wide safety standards and the SAPL-specific studio rules outlined below. These rules are in place to ensure a safe, functional, and respectful working environment for everyone. Failure to comply

may be considered Academic or Non-Academic misconduct and be subject to disciplinary action, including loss of studio and/or workshop privileges under the SAPL demerit system.

Conduct & Culture

- No horseplay, pranks, or behavior that could distract or endanger others. Keep voices and music at levels that don't mask hazards or emergency instructions.
- All posted door placards and safety signage must be followed at all times.

Fire Safety, Exits & Evacuation

- Keep aisles, doors, and all emergency equipment fully clear at all times; do not block exits with models, carts, or materials. Obey Emergency/Fire Wardens during drills and alarms.
- Nothing may be stored on top of lockers (fire code/OH&S).
- During an evacuation: leave immediately, use stairs, go to the assembly point, and wait for the all-clear.

Prohibited & Restricted Items in Studios

- No flammable sprays or solvents (e.g., spray paint, spray glue, fixatives) may be used or stored in studios. Use only in a designated spray booth with ventilation.
- Freshly laser-cut plastics must not be stored in studios due to off-gassing; allow time for ventilation per shop guidance.
- No concrete powder storage in studios.
- No small kitchen appliances (kettles, coffee makers, hot plates, etc.).
- No drugs or alcohol may be consumed or stored on campus.

Materials

- Use only materials approved for studio use. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor, workshop personnel, or the Manager of Faculty Operations.
- Store materials neatly; dispose of hazardous waste per posted instructions—never in regular bins.

Housekeeping & End-of-Term Cleanout

- Maintain a clean, orderly workstation; manage offcuts and trip hazards promptly.
- End of term: remove all models and supplies from studios and model storage by posted deadlines—items left will be discarded.

Layout, Furniture & Power

- Do not relocate furniture to other areas or reconfigure studio layouts without authorization from Faculty Operations.
- Each student may have one locker only.

- Nothing may be hung from ceilings except approved extension cords for power. If you need additional power, contact a technician or Building Operations; do not DIY electrical setups. Personal heaters require Faculty Operations approval.

Working Hours, Security & Working Alone

- After hours: do not admit unknown persons; theft and damage have occurred this way.
- If anyone is actively building/cutting/gluing, studio lights must remain on for safety.
- Working alone: follow UCalgary's Working Alone Standard—use the UCSafety App check-in feature or an approved plan, especially after hours.

PPE & Personal Safety

- Tie back long hair; avoid loose clothing, scarves, dangling jewelry, and headphones when performing tasks that could snag. Wear eye protection when there's risk from cutting/sanding/particulates; use respiratory protection/booths where required.
- Closed-toe footwear is mandatory; hearing/respiratory protection as task-appropriate. (See posted signage and SDS guidance.)

Tools & Equipment in Studios.

- Use tools only for their intended purpose and only those permitted in studios by your instructor and posted rules. High-risk tools (e.g., power tools) are not operated in studios without coordination with workshop personnel.
- Report damaged or malfunctioning furniture or equipment immediately—do not attempt repairs yourself.

Incidents, Reporting & Enforcement

- Report all injuries, near misses, and hazards immediately to your instructor and Campus Security; complete required incident reports per university procedure.
- Safety violations may be considered Academic or Non-Academic misconduct and trigger disciplinary action. Persistent non-compliance is escalated to Faculty Operations/Associate Dean.

Instructor Responsibilities (Studios)

- Instructors are responsible for monitoring and enforcing studio safety, addressing prohibited activities (e.g., sprays in studios, blocked exits), and escalating repeat violations to Faculty Operations. (Workshop personnel focus on workshop safety under the revised framework.)

Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

- **Code of Conduct:** The SAPL Studio spaces and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.

Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Territorial Readings: Pinup / Discussions	Mapping existing infrastructural, ecological, and cultural systems in the Beltline.	10%	1, 2, 5
Artist Typologies: Pinup / Discussions	Research and diagrammatic exploration of diverse artist practices and their spatial needs (e.g. painters, performers, welders, media artists)	10%	1,2, 5
Kit of Parts: Pinup / Discussions	Students develop modular, repeatable elements that can serve multiple functions (structure, enclosure, support, storage, etc.)	10%	1, 2, 3, 5
Programmatic Layering: Pinup / Discussions	Strategies for nesting public/private, solitary/communal, temporary/ permanent uses within the same framework	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Temporal Assemblies (mid-terms): Presentation / Crits	Proposals for how artist studios may adapt over time (seasonal use, artist-in-residence rotation, festivals, etc.).	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
The Interview: Digital Submission	Students prepare a series of Interview questions posed at identified stakeholders, and gather answers.	5%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Final Proposal: Presentation / Crits	Comprehensive architectural proposal for an Artist Stable Cluster within the Calgary Beltline. Deliverables: site strategy, system diagrams, drawings (plans/sections/elevations), models, renderings.	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

- **Assessment and Evaluation Information:**
 - If a student misses (or is late for) a required component of the course for a valid excuse or absence, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss applicable options to submit and/or make-up for that component.
 - Alternate arrangements for missed in-person assessments with a valid excuse will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student's class participation and attendance record.
 - For assessments submitted online (e.g., D2L), all late assignments will lose a letter grade (e.g., A- to B-) every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute an automatic zero (0).
 - Missed in-person assessments (e.g., oral presentation, exam, etc.) as a result of an *unexcused* absence will receive an automatic zero (0).

- **Attendance and Participation Expectations:**
 - Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and contributing to individual and class-wide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.
 - **Excused Absences:** In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow wow, etc.) up to four excused absences (for courses that meet twice or more per week) and up to two excused absences (for courses that meet once per week) are allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such arrangements must be approved by the Instructor with advance notice by the student.
 - **Unexcused Absences:** Attendance at all class sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of two per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) and one per semester (for courses that meet once per week) are grounds for failure in the course.
 - **Total Number of Absences:** The combined total number of excused AND unexcused absences per semester cannot exceed four per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) or two per semester (for courses that meet once per week). Any number in excess are grounds for failure in the course.

- **Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:**
 - All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time.
 - Please submit all assignments electronically through Dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in PDF format (unless otherwise stated). Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Coursenumber_semester_Lastname-Firstname_assignment-title" (e.g., DSGN302_F25_Smith-Alex_Plan-Drawings).
 - Students are responsible for ensuring that all submitted digital files are in the correct format, complete, and accessible. Submissions that are corrupt, empty, incorrect (e.g.,

wrong file type), or inaccessible may receive a grade of zero. It is not the Instructor's responsibility to verify or notify students of submission errors. Students are encouraged to double-check their uploads and retain confirmation of successful submission.

- **Late Assignments:** Please see above for the course's policy on late assignments/assessments.
- **Final Examinations:**
 - This course has no final examination.
- **Expectations for Writing:**
 - Please see the "Copyright and Legislation" Section of the University of Calgary Policies and Supports for information on the use of AI in this course.
 - Section E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum:
<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/2c2d1ce47b8c4d008aec9cc3da49876e>
- **Criteria that must be met to pass:**
 - Completion of all critical assignments (exercises + final project).
 - Minimum grade of 50% in each critical component (any assignment with over 15% weighting).
 - Attendance and participation in critiques and reviews.
 - Final cumulative grade of 55% or higher.

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

As per [Section 3.5.1](#) of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School, with the exception of the following courses:

- Architecture 201
- Landscape Architecture 201
- Planning 201

Grading Scale:

Based on [Section F.1.1](#) of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. Minimum grade requirement for SAPL prerequisite courses.
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Assessments and Due Dates
<i>Examples below, please adjust to fit your course dates.</i>		
PHASE 01 – groundings		
Sep 2-8	BDCI: Launchpad <i>Introduction to Studio</i> / Lecture: Atmosphere & Parametric Design / Blind contour drawing exercise (exercise 01 handout)	
Sep 9-12	Territorial Readings – Mapping existing infrastructural, ecological, and cultural systems in the Beltline.	Exercise 01 Due Sep 12
Sep 15-19	Artist Typologies – Research and diagrammatic exploration of diverse artist practices and their spatial needs (e.g., painters, performers, welders, media artists)	Exercise 02 Due Sep 19
PHASE 02 – Infrastructure as scaffold		

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Assessments and Due Dates
Sep 22-26	Kit of Parts – Students develop modular, repeatable elements that can serve multiple functions (structure, enclosure, support, storage, etc.)	
Tuesday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, University closed	
Oct 1-3	Pinups / Crits	Exercise 03 Due Oct 3
Oct 6-10	Programmatic Layering – Strategies for nesting public / private, solitary / communal, temporary / permanent uses within the same framework	
Wednesday, October 8	City Futures: Undergraduate Design Research Symposium	
Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving Day, University closed	
Oct 14-17	Desk Crits	
Oct 20-24	Pinups / Crits	Exercise 04 Due Oct 24
PHASE 03 – Systems of Occupation		
Oct 27-31	Temporal Assemblies (mid-terms): Proposals for how artist stables may adapt over time (seasonal use, artist-in-residence rotation, festivals, etc.). Presentation of site strategy, infrastructure concept, and initial studio module(s).	On-site Mid Term Presentation: Due Oct 31
Nov 3-7	Integrated Proposal Handout	
Nov 9-15	Term Break, no classes	
PHASE 04 – Integrated Proposal		
Nov 17-21	The Interview: Students prepare a series of Interview questions posed at identified stakeholders and gather answers.	Exercise 05 Due Nov 21
Nov 24-28	Final Project: Students develop a cohesive, site-specific design that accommodates multiple artist practices while responding to infrastructural, ecological, and urban systems. Emphasis is placed on flexibility, creativity, and spatial richness.	
Dec 1-5	FINAL REVIEWS	
Friday, December 5	Last day of classes	
Friday, December 5	Final Reviews + Reception (full day): second-year BDCI	
Tuesday, December 9	Start of exams	
Friday, December 19	End of exams	

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

The following is a list of scheduled out-of-class activities, students are expected to make their own way to the activity site for the scheduled time, potential conflicts or issues MUST be raised and addressed well in advance, to allow sufficient time for alternate arrangements or an excused absence to be granted.

Schedule Date	Start Time & Duration	Site Address	Activity
Fri, Sep 03	1:00pm – 4:50pm	605 11ave SW, Calgary	Territorial Readings – Mapping existing infrastructural, ecological, and cultural systems in the Beltline.
Fri, Oct 31	11:00am – 6:00pm	605 11ave SW, Calgary	Mid Term Presentations - On-site Mid Term Presentations & mini gallery show
Tue, Nov 18	1:00pm – 4:50pm	605 11ave SW, Calgary	The Interview – On site interview questions and site discussions

Additional site visits and discussions may be organized according to need and space availability.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

[Student Accessibility Services](#) will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures please visit:

- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>
- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>).

Notice to Students Regarding Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications and Tools in Learning Environments

- **Some Use Permitted:** Students may use generative AI tools in this course in accordance with the instructions and guidelines outlined for each course assignment or assessment. The use of generative AI tools must be referenced and cited following citation instructions outlined by the course instructor. Use of generative AI outside assessment or assignment guidelines or without citation will constitute academic misconduct. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations on the use of generative AI tools for each assessment or assessment, on the expectations for citation and referencing, and on fact checking statements created by generative AI tools. If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor.
 - AI tools can be used for creating assignment outlines or critiquing drafts, but the final work must be original.
 - AI tools may be prohibited for tests, major assignments, or research papers but allowed for information gathering.
 - Students remain completely responsible for any work generated / presented and MUST be able to defend any work presented. Work generated that is not fully comprehended by the student presenting it shall be deemed plagiarized material and treated accordingly.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary (University) respects your privacy and is committed to ensuring the privacy of all students, staff, and community members. UCalgary's collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information is authorized under section 4(c) of the Alberta [Protection of Privacy Act](#) (POPA). It will be

collected, used and disclosed as permitted under POPA and in accordance with the University's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information](#). All student assignments and personal information provided to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. It will not be disclosed to anyone else without your permission unless permitted under POPA.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/reappraisal-term-work>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk