

ARCH 454 Vertical Studio
Prof. Phil Mead

MIXED-USE BLOCK and PLAZA DEVELOPMENT



The studio will explore how Well-Being concepts in the emerging field of Positive Psychology can be incorporated strategically into a historic downtown center. A full block and adjacent plaza will be designed in the heart of a city center to create a greater sense of community. Several building types will be programmed and designed to form a mixed-use block. The class will explore how architecture and landscape can activate engagement, community, meaning, and sense of place, positive emotions, and community achievement in a downtown setting. Students working in teams will learn to maximize the performance of critical design components such as 'soft edges' and 'triangulation' that make a city center come to life, and by extension raise the quality of life for all citizens.