University Collaboration

Our intention is
renovate, repurpose or recycle
community properties through
conceptual visioning

Our value is
more potential for preservation
more potential for sustained community
more focus of energies
develop a visual concept

Our method is
immersion in the community,
participatory design
follow up support

Mattawa Government Road planning workshop
We are
research and design faculty
advanced design students
- Interior design
- Landscape architecture
- Architecture
- Construction management

We do
CONCEPT with the community

Mattawa Government Road planning workshop
design process

Uncertainty / patterns / insights  Clarity / Focus

Research  Concept  Design
RCDI outreach works with a variety of initiatives over numerous semesters.

Most RCDI projects are crafted to have the majority of the work done within one semester's studio.

RCDI provides additional support to the community to keep the projects moving forward in subsequent semesters.

The goal of RCDI is to work with a community to develop a concept.
What RCDI brings to the collaboration:

Collaboration provides a face to face connection with the community.

A “doing with” approach as opposed to a “doing for” approach.

Engaged students and faculty

**Process & Opportunities** Rural Communities Design Initiative

**Process**
- Site Visit - Ground Truthing
- Asset mapping
- Ethnography
- Community Visioning Workshop
- Concept design work
- Concept design review with community
- Concept design revisions
- Deliverables tailored for the project

**Evaluation and Assessment**
What the community brings to the collaboration:

Champions or Visionaries – individuals who lead the effort

Logistical support – individuals who pull the events together

Funding for transportation, meals, printing

What the community brings to the collaboration:

Open to all ideas
Open to all community members
Open to diverse points of view
Avoid hidden agendas
Ideation | what do you need to know about your community’s vision of its future?

Consider the focus topic for a design workshop

- Revitalize downtown, develop storefront character, repurpose vacant spaces,
- Renovate/repurpose existing buildings, develop trail and park system,
- Build a commercial community kitchen, develop a historic walking tour ….

Why do you think such a project would benefit your community?

Consider your local resources in people and services.

Consider how your community will invest and contribute to the success of the project.

Be open to new ideas
process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

focus on the community-based question to develop a concept

recent projects:

- Rosalia, WA: Commercial Community Kitchen
- Electric City, WA: Regional Nature Trails | Ice-Age Flood
- Colfax, WA: Community Enrichment Center
- Mattawa, WA: Main Street design
- Colton, WA: Bike trail between Colton and Uniontown
- Hartline, WA: Adaptive Re-use of 20th Century School
- LaCrosse, WA: Pop-up Visitor Center
- St. John, WA: Community History Museum

Rural Communities Design Initiative
benefit your community

S  Strengths
W  Weaknesses
O  Opportunities
T  Threats
local resources | Bring people together

Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe Village planning workshop
process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

local resources | asset mapping

Seacoast Skill Sharing
process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

be open to new ideas

public restroom, Ichihara Japan
design | Sou Fujimoto

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Mirror House Central Park, Copenhagen
design | MLRP Architects

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inspired by precedent
Kilcreggan Public Beach, Scotland, Proposed design | Gaffney Architects

process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

inspired by precedent
Infinite Bridge, Aarhus, Denmark

design | Gjøde & Povlsgaard Arkitekter

process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

inspired by precedent
process & opportunities  Rural Communities Design Initiative

inspired by precedent

Lydham, Shropshire England

design | Phillipa Lawrence
WAKE Franconia Sculpture Park, Minnesota

process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

inspired by precedent

WAKE Franconia Sculpture Park, Minnesota
design | Michael McGillis

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What the RCDI brings to the collaboration:

Concept design for the community-based problem

Concept visuals that allows the entire community to participate and weigh in on the vision

Making connections with design practice to further the project

What we do not do:

Drawings for construction
process & opportunities Rural Communities Design Initiative

Mattawa Government Road planning workshop

Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe Village planning workshop
Process

Site Visit - Ground Truthing
Ethnography
Community Visioning Workshop
Concept design work
Concept design review with community
Concept design revisions
Deliverables tailored for the project
Evaluation and Assessment
Objective: To provide students with sufficient knowledge of concerns for the site design. To provide a foundation for students’ site inventory, site analysis, and conceptual design phases. Focus on analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats/Constraints.
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Objective: Students develop the community ideas into visual images and written documents. The community reviews the work and discusses the next steps and desired revisions. The goal is to create visual images and written documents to enable the community to move the project forward.
Design review with community

TOLEDO WA downtown streetscape concept

Rural Community Design Initiative
Deliverables tailored to the project

Mattawa WA main street character and pedestrian safety
Deliverables tailored to the project
Soap Lake WA downtown streetscape concept
Soap Lake WA downtown streetscape concept
Uniontown WA artisan barn event space concept
Bonners Ferry ID library and education concept

Boundary County Library

Rural Communities Design Initiative
**BOUNDARY COUNTY LIBRARY**

**PLAN A: Channel into the Future**

**REUSE OF EXISTING LIBRARY BUILDING + ADDITION**

Channel into the Future plans for the retention and remodel of the extant library building, along with new constructions form and interior that symbolically suggest the transition from old to new and thus Bonners Ferry moving into the future. It will provide a new community center that welcomes all ages with new facilities and opportunities, as well as a place to gather, relax, enjoy and learn.

**Third Place**

Third place is a separate space from home or workplace located within a person's community to provide social connectivity and identity. Third places play an important role in civil society, democracy, civic engagement, and creating a sense of place. It helps bring the community together and create a coherent unity.

**Codes & Classification**

**Occupancy Type**
- Assembly Group A: A-3 occupancy library
- Business Group B: B occupancy
- Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade
- Storage Group S: S occupancy for books and paper in rolls or packs

**Building Type:** Type 5 Stick Frame Fire Wall

For A&B occupancies: 2 hours fire resistance rating is required

For F2 occupancies: 2 hours fire resistance rating is required

**Fire Separation**

The fab lab must have a 1 hour separation from all assembly areas if the area is not sprinkled and non if it is. It also must have a 2 hours separation from Group B occupancies if it is non-sprinkled and 1 hour if it isn't (see ground level floor plan). Group B occupancies must also have a 1 hour separation from Group A occupancies if it is non-sprinkled and 2 hours if it isn't (relevant on level one; existing building).

**Benefits**

- **Existing building is kept:** the building would be cosmetically resurfaced to connect to the new addition.
- **Atrium creates a third place:** the connection to the existing building and the new addition provides a strong design concept, creating a channel into the future and a place to connect the community to information and provide a conversation space.
- **Grade changes:** because the basement grade of the existing building is not level to the lot, some additional measures would need to take place to create efficient circulation: excavation under the atrium and parking garage to permit elevator access to the existing building. Stairs and ramps will need to be added to the entrance and back doors of the atrium and the parking garage to meet ADA standards.

**Occupancy Load**

- **Fablab:** 8
- **Atrium:** 58
- **Digital Lab:** 28
- **Ground Floor:** 58

**Community Workshop**

We went to Boundary County and had a meeting with executives from library, Northern Idaho College (NIC), University of Idaho, and Boundary County Economic Development (BEDC). We are separated into different groups in order to go with different representatives and understand their needs and current facility. I felt like this kind of community workshop helped us have a better acknowledgment of client and their perspective. Going down there in person let us understand the spirit of the town and their expectation of the library of the future. Each team got together at the end and identified the design problems and requirements of clients. Although we were not able to visit every single facility in person, the discussion and presentation from each group lets us understand different clients' needs.

**Paint Schemes**

- **Children's spaces:** Ryegrass, Jonquil, Knockout Orange, and Cloudburst
- **Adult space:** Green Glaze, Fired Brick, and Ryegrass
- **Office and class rooms:** Green Glaze, Jonquil, and Romaine
- **Fab lab/Makerspaces:** Green Glaze and Cloudburst

**Total:**
- **Library (Second Floor):** 45
- **Library (Third Floor):** 53
- **Classrooms:** 35-50
- **Total:** 450
LaCrosse WA pop-up visitor center and ice-age flood exhibit
LaCrosse WA pop-up visitor center and ice-age flood exhibit

Evolution Junction
Ice Age Flood Visitor Center. LaCrosse, Washington

Design Concept
This project is inspired by the geological transformation due to the forces of nature and the power of the Missoula Flood. Paired with the historic development of the city of LaCrosse and the value of unity connection within the community.

Wow Factor and Interactive Experience:
The interactive experience includes the movement of the Missoula Flood across the United States in an interactive display. The exhibit features a sloping platform that simulates the flood's movement, allowing visitors to experience the power and scale of the event.

Exhibit and Visitor Center Sign:
The exhibit sign is designed to capture attention and provide information about the Missoula Flood. It is placed at the entrance of the visitor center, guiding visitors to the exhibit area.

Exterior View
The exterior design features a sloping roof that mimics the flood waves. The building is constructed with materials that reflect the local environment, integrating with the landscape.

Exterior View
The interior space is designed to simulate the environment of the flooded region, providing a immersive experience for visitors. The space includes interactive elements that allow visitors to explore the flood's impact and its historical significance.

Sharla Thiesen
Christie Andresen
Rural Communities Design Initiative
LaCrosse WA pop-up visitor center and ice-age flood exhibit
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LaCrosse WA pop-up visitor center and ice-age flood exhibit

Deliverables tailored to the project

Laurel Swaney
Yuriva Bueno
Abigail Metcalf
Shading Strategies

The design implements a variety of shading strategies that are inspired by the conceptual organic and natural strategies. On the entrance side of the shipping container there is a portico that leads the visitor into the space. The portico is built out of 2x4 wood planks, with 1 ½” spacing between each board. This allows light in at intervals, easing the transition from exterior to interior and proving shade to the space below.

On the southern side of the container where the seating platforms are located there is a sun sail to provide shade. The sun sail is a stretched outdoor fabric that flows over the area that it is suspended between, this encompasses half of the platform area in shade during most points of the day. This shading device still allows breezes and doesn’t create too intense of a shade contrast for the area.
Design Development

The graphic identity for the Lacrosse and Missoula Floods visitor center was inspired by the floods themselves and the immense impact that they had on the region. The scale and severity of the Missoula Floods molded and shaped the landscapes that are seen in this region and west to the ocean over a long period of time. The graphic images were derived from the physical topography that surrounds Lacrosse. Directly pulling the land’s contour lines and developing them into graphic lines accompanied by colors inspired by the region resulted in the bold, contrasting graphic lines that are applied to the exterior of the container itself. Throughout the site the design is done organically to mimic the topography, small berms mimic the soft rolling hills of the Palouse and the meandering paths are modeled after the topographic lines.

This concept drove the design of the site by inspiring the sunken walkways and the various levels throughout. For example, the berms and height changes of the porch and wood portico.
References:

Rural Communities Design Initiative [RCDI]
a community university collaboration

The Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) exists to promote economic prosperity in small, rural communities, by joining the tangible needs of small communities with the creative resources of university students and their faculty and strives to enhance the social, cultural, economic, and natural capital of unique rural places.

Acknowledging the value of the physical environment to the economic vitality and cultural identity of rural communities, Washington State University's School of Design and Construction and WSU Extension have collaborated to launch the RCDI. Through RCDI, we partner with small, rural communities to offer an innovative, cross-disciplinary approach for rebuilding and promoting a sustainable economy. The RCDI focuses on the development of the rural community by identifying, designing and implementing community-driven projects in the sectors of housing, community facilities and community and economic development.

A typical intervention process consists of a series of interviews, and collaborative work sessions between the RCDI and the community stakeholders. These can vary from a single consultation to a series of workshops that strive to determine a community's shared vision to develop conceptual designs for specific, executable projects. RCDI is funded by grants from allied organizations and the participating communities. The funds cover travel and material expenses, as well as support the community workshops.

RCDI serves as a catalyst to strengthen small rural communities and improve quality of life by re-purposing community properties and built environment to determine and develop their potential related to community facilities and economic development. RCDI is an action-oriented program of research focusing on the revitalization of rural, under-resourced communities. Finding new ways to restore, preserve, and revitalize such communities can entice investors, encourage the young to stay, and provide opportunity for those who have left to return.

RCDI operates through the School of Design and Construction curriculum in existing studios, and with graduate students in those programs. RCDI provides a written and visual summary of the community's vision, in preparation for the next step of engaging qualified design, planning and construction firms for bringing a community vision to reality. There is a fee for services, based on the scope of the project. Documents provided by RCDI are for conceptual purposes only. The documents and drawings are intended to facilitate discussion, not for use in construction. The documents and drawings may form the basis for work by qualified professionals.

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