

# A STUDIO-ALUMS PARTNERSHIP

## PARTNERING WITH ALUMS TO ENVISION SUSTAINABLE URBANISM

During spring semester Wendy McClure's 4th year studio partnered with alums Jessica Friend (MArch 2006) and Steven Clark (MArch 2007) to design concepts for an Institute for Sustainable Urbanism in Seattle. Rolluda Architects, where Jessica and Steven are both gainfully employed, hosted several events including a presentation by firm principal and president Alex Rolluda on approaches to programming. Field trip participants also enjoyed an engaging discussion with firm members about readings selected by Jessica on place-making and using architecture as an instrument to enrich Seattle's special qualities of "place".

During daytime hours students toured IslandWood, co-housing, and Vineyard Lane Housing on Bainbridge Island with guide Tom Bartuska (Architecture Professor Emeritus from WSU), visited Mithun Architects to discuss several of the firm's projects focused on sustainable design, and participated in a marathon walking tour of architectural and urban design sites and issues in downtown Seattle with Wendy. During a second evening at Rolluda student teams partnered with Jessica and Steven for a charette to develop initial responses to project sites. Upon returning to Moscow students applied strategies offered by Alex Rolluda to map out a "day in the life" of each major stakeholder group for the proposed institute and to refine programmatic content to fit team visions. Professor Emeritus and alumnus Nels Reese (BArch circa 1960) and Pamela Overholtzer (MArch 2005) served as critics for pin-ups during project development stages. Jessica and Steven traveled to Moscow to participate in final critics with Moscow based alums.



Students posed at the treehouse classroom at Islandwood; and worked with Jessica and Steven in preliminary design charettes.



photo: Bruce Haglund

Garrett Lumens and Sally Woodward present their final project to Nels Reese, Wendy McClure, Pam Overholtzer, Jessica Friend, and Steven Clark.

Many of you may recall participating in "the Seattle project" with alumni/alumnae, and 4th year instructors Bill Bowler, Bruce Haglund, and Wendy McClure *[in pre-historic times-bth]*. We are excited about reviving this special experience and partnership with Seattle-based alumni/alumnae. We greatly appreciate Jessica and Steven's energy and commitment in helping to set up this spring semester's project. We encourage other Seattle area alumni/alumnae to join our circle!

—Wendy McClure

photos: Wendy McClure