

ARCH 406: THE EGALITARIAN METROPOLIS

WHAT IS AN EGALITARIAN CITY?



This urban humanities course offers an interdisciplinary perspective on urban studies that includes architecture, history, urban planning, social work, urban design perspectives, and the ways that concerns around democracy, equity, and social justice can influence how we think about cities in the past, present, and future using Detroit as its lens.

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Winter 2026
T,Th 2:30 – 4:00 pm

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This team-taught course incorporates the voices of practitioners and community members involved in current attempts to revitalize Detroit and similar urban areas. It will combine past and current thinking on issues such as negative population growth, deindustrialization, economic disinvestment, racial stratification, environmental injustices, and concomitant crises in housing, healthcare, policing, criminalization, and education. At the same time, Detroit and similar cities offer opportunities to conjoin critical humanistic inquiry, urban design, and policy solutions for building more equitable and sustainable cities.

Created as part of the Egalitarian Metropolis Project, a partnership between the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the University of Michigan Initiative for Democracy & Civic Empowerment, the offering combines traditional course materials with a team-based orientation to teaching and learning through an action-oriented, solutions-based approach. By mid-semester, students will have the option to advance a previous Detroit-based course project, engage a current Detroit-based research effort, or create a project of their own choosing that centers democratic and egalitarian principles.



DRIVING EDUCATION FORWARD

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DART (Detroit Area Rapid Transit) group are aiming to stop absenteeism happening in Detroit schools. If you are a parent, guardian, or anyone who is willing to stand with us, scan the QR code to our website and sign the petition to make change happen in your community.



Bridging the Gap: Combat Transportation-Induced Absenteeism in Detroit



Project Background

The bin design comes from a workshop collaborated with Birwood House for a beautification project on Detroit's West Side along a neighborhood corridor. It holds a 10gal trash bin that is small and light enough for the neighbors who volunteered to be the stewards of the bins. The bin lid is designed to swing open to allow the bag to be easily removed and replaced.

ORDER LIST	Cost Per Unit	QT	Total Cost
2x4	\$3.35	3	\$10.05
1x6	\$8.22	4	\$32.88
1-3/4" Screws	\$4.49	1	\$4.49
Mesh	\$8.00	1	\$8.00
Trash Bags	\$1.80	1	\$1.80
Trash Can	\$22.47	1	\$22.47
Cost Per bin			\$79.69

*Costs Reflect time of build Spring 2023

Small Scale Infrastructure @ Birwood House in Detroit

***OPEN TO ALL UPPER LEVEL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

