U.S. PEACE CORPS COVERDELL FELLOWSHIP

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The Paul D. Coverdell program assists Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) complete internships in underserved communities in the United States, while they attend graduate school. The Coverdell Fellows program at the University of Cincinnati’s School of Planning allows RPCVs to bring home and expand upon the skills they learned as Volunteers.
There is a serious lack of awareness and resources available to high school students’ suffering from mental health. This project proposal aims to help 1N5 design and develop a successful high school student-led program in schools that is personalized for each school, supports all types of students, and provides resources and education.
Design U is a magazine for teachers that combines the world of design with the world of teaching and education. Focused on blending the two with the intent of empowering teachers to create a classroom that works for them and their students. Classroom visual and physical decoration can become a challenge for students to be successful learners if not done with their needs in mind. While new research is constantly coming out about how to best assist your students, it can often be overwhelming to research and costly to implement in the classroom. This can be especially true for teachers who have students with learning or attention disabilities, where over-stimulation in the classroom can hinder learning.
Sleep insufficiency has been declared a public health epidemic in the 21st century. Moreover, sleep loss is associated with serious adverse health and social outcomes. However, studies show napping can compensate for sleep insufficiency. This thesis investigates the power of napping and proposes a digital tool to promote napping behavior by mentoring and encouraging people to establish habitual naps. Research findings shed a light on three main reasons causing people to neglect the value of napping. First, low awareness of considerable impacts of napping on brain’s alertness and performance; second, inconstancy in time management to allocate time for napping, and third, lack of adherence to a newly established habit.
The Master of Community Planning capstone explored strategies to help revitalize Price Hill’s neighborhood business districts so that these once vibrant corridors can rediscover their rightful place as the commercial, cultural, and social hearts of the community. Five areas of neighborhood business district revitalization contributed to each project.

1. Life after retail
2. Neighborhood business revitalization strategies
3. Urban food access
4. Arts-led neighborhood business district revitalization
5. Neighborhood business district street design
Rubbertown is currently an industrial corridor site located in Louisville, Kentucky that produces tires and synthetic rubbers that have harmful effects on the neighboring residential area. Running along the Ohio River, Rubbertown’s two major concerns that will be addressed are the lack of existing habitat and ecosystems as well as the poor air quality in order to create a better quality of life for the residence, workers and visitors. For this project I will be focusing on how to better improve the quality of life through green infrastructure and the importance of bringing awareness to why biodiversity is vital for the survival of native species in the industrial site of Rubbertown in Louisville, Kentucky.
The Managing the Urban Environment class prepared what is now the sixth volume in a series of books that focus on the practice of Urban Environmental Management (UEM). These books focus on developing countries, which both face more immediate problems than the developed world and have fewer resources to deal with them. The focus of the book was creating a 5-year plan to help solve the urban environmental problems of Jakarta, Indonesia. Chapters focused on poverty alleviation, water, sewage and sanitation, industry, transportation, energy and finance.
Black feminism and black female identity have reached some level of success in social progression since the 1970s, but in contemporary artistic and business expression, they have barely scratched the surface. What does an ideal urban space for women of color look like and comprise of? A critical analysis of the societal influences on black women is required to understand the multi-faceted influences that undermine these women as professionals and contributors equally as capable as their white and male counterparts. To achieve a spatial network within the urban context where black women can attain their artistic, business, and cultural goals, black feminist theory and its relationship with architectural intervention and semiology is explored.
The country has felt the effects of an opioid crisis that peaked in 2016. In reaction, substance abuse has been fought in many ways like prevention and harm-reduction approaches. However, addiction treatment keeps showing high drop-out rates. The design outcome is a community-driven initiative, in which the caring of patients in addiction treatment is shared by everyone, providing tools and resources for regular citizens to become addiction-treatment sponsors. There, providing the necessary social support that can increase the rate of treatment adherence.
In partnership with Northsider’s Engaged in Sustainable Transformation (NEST), this University of Cincinnati DAAP Architecture studio project seeks to develop affordable housing solutions in Cincinnati’s Northside neighborhood with the purpose of re-developing aging homes while also seeking to prevent the harmful impacts of gentrification on local low-income residents. This particular project illustrates one outcome from a studio wide lottery of research specific design components.
The Rubbertown Corridor represents a hub of industry that supports close to 10,000 workers locally and regionally and this hub wants to become a better neighbor. The need to balance the economic, social and environmental responsibilities requires vision, creativity and comprehension of the broad relationships essential for a healthy urban environment. This project transforms the landscape of Rubbertown into a vibrant and sustainable community by using green infrastructure in a functional and aesthetic way to create an experiential landscape so that the community does not have to compromise their quality of life.
Through assets-based community driven approach to planning, there are several paths in utilizing the plethora of vacant land in Avondale. Most notably, is a food forest. Food forests are easily maintained and can provide local, native, and fresh produce to anyone willing to harvest the fruits. Additionally, hoop houses, designed for extending produce into the winters can utilize vacant property to provide an outlet for entrepreneurial innovation through food production. Lastly, a small meadow can provide an area for water catchment and increased biodiversity for future farm or garden use.
With an increasingly sedentary population in the USA, related healthcare conditions are on the rise. While in most cases when we talk about healthcare we tend to think about physical issues, sedentary behavior can also have severe effects on our mental health. Exploring the state of Utah through the lens of Shinrin-Yoku, this project aims to advocate for the benefits that national parks bring to human health. This photographic journey aims to immerse the viewer in the natural wonders of several of these national parks to encourage their exposure and stewardship.
Rapid transition over the past two decades in Over-the-Rhine has left the community fragmented physically and socially. This fragmentation has left many of its residents either homeless or displaced, and if not this, at a disadvantage to amenities and employment opportunities. Our project proposes to mend this divide by creating a holistic approach to affordable housing. In order to integrate affordable housing in an efficient way, we are considering the many factors that create a healthy community: such as, education, transportation, access to food and public facilities.
UC + Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) team designed and build several cabins in the orchard as well as infrastructure that connected the whole community in rural China, in order to contribute to the revitalization of the “Century-old Pear Orchard”, and also to explore a path for changing villages by the power of design.
The “Ihsan Community Center Design and Renovation” is a sponsored studio by Ihsan community. The studio explored design possibilities and engaged the Ihsan community in developing future visions. The redesign and renovation of the current Ihsan community center emphasized logical architectural space, including prayer area, classrooms for educational programs, multi-purpose hall, and outdoor recreation.
Currently, many millennials forgo getting coverage due to perceiving it as not a necessity and feeling overwhelmed from lack of education. However, virtually no American can afford to maintain medical care without health insurance. Even if someone perceives themselves as a healthy adult, unexpected medical bills can pop up, and can be extremely costly. Having health insurance shifts care from reactive to preventative, thereby saving money and reducing morbidity by catching issues before they worsen. The ACA Marketplace Healthcare.gov aims to fill gaps in a fragmented health insurance system based on employment status. With more millennials having multiple part-time jobs or freelance/contract work that does not guarantee benefits, the ACA aims to provide affordable health insurance options to those in need. This project addresses these needs by providing visitors with streamlined education, personalized experiences, and persuasive call to actions.
This project utilizes practices from co-creation in order to inform design for individuals suffering from arthritis. Through the lens of specialized yoga therapy, I will create a group of customized yoga items to assist individuals with limited mobility.
The Maya Youth Artisanship Initiative (MYAI) is a project to help preserve the endangered craft technique of backstrap loom weaving and fiber processing using vegetable fibers in Hocabá, Yucatán, Mexico, focusing on teaching Maya youth in the community. The MYAI project also helps to better understand the community’s opinion about the role of weaving in Mayan culture, and about weaving as career.

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SPONSORS
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As the contemporary world becomes more complex and challenging, stress continues to be a significant risk factor for individuals in their daily lives. Stress reduction strategies have been discussed among scholars and healthcare practitioners. The goal of this exercise was to experiment with three-dimensional spatial potentials embedded in geometric, organic, natural, or technological fractals as influential forces for spatial design.
Every community contributes to shaping society and hence merits a place in public history. Some communities are often left out of knowledge-production due to the trivialization of their contributions or their political stigmatization. These ‘Invisiblised Communities’ need to advocate for themselves and publish their own narrative. This thesis is aimed at enabling the voices of two such communities: Women with HIV in America and Women leading political activism in India.
Over-the-Rhine is a historic neighborhood that has always been characterized by social and political contestation. By assessing the existing housing supply, the affordability of basic goods and services, transportation links, and the social fabric of the community, we have developed a vision for reintroducing affordable housing as a priority for redevelopment in Over-the-Rhine after decades of decline in the neighborhood’s stock of affordable housing.
Many older adults are socially isolated—which is both detrimental to physical and mental wellbeing. While retirement communities often promote passive forms of leisure that do not contribute to social relationships, museum programming has been proven to provide significant social and health benefits for older adults. This thesis proposes a criteria for how to design multisensory informal learning tools that support cultural engagement and social opportunities for older adults. The development of an experimental ‘portable museum’ prototype culminated in a week-long pilot test at a local affordable senior living residence.
Piatt Park in downtown Cincinnati has become a hotspot for misdemeanors which not only creates a negative perception of the city but also affects the quality of living of residents and visitors of downtown Cincinnati. Different organizations have addressed the situation but the majority of proposals fall in the category of environmental design, requiring high-investment infrastructural modifications.
This Thesis investigates the precariousness of home in others by reimagining perceptions of origin, displacement, and belonging. The repurposing of trace materials left behind from others, showcases the ways in which we relate objects to identity. By examining long-distance relationships and the ‘made’ family, Maurer unravels the embedded fibers of codependency and reinterprets politics of belonging.
With rising life expectancy and medical abilities the aging population is growing rapidly, and almost universally, we struggle to find care for aging adults. Robotic companions can help the aging population find the comfort that many of us find in our pets, without the necessary complexities of animal care. In addition to the social benefits, robotic companions offer a novel opportunity. By creating a tool to take into the homes of those who need assistance the most and creating an object these individuals desire interaction with, many unique interventions become available.