



## Reconnecting People and Place (RPP): International design-build studio

Summer 2010; 12 Credit Hours; Instructor: John Motloch; AB206; [jmotloch@bsu.edu](mailto:jmotloch@bsu.edu)

Reconnecting People and Place is an interdisciplinary program addressing sustainability, housing and community. It includes students from Ball State and TEC de Monterrey, Mexico (perhaps also University of Melbourne). It contains three courses: 1) Sustainability & Community Development Theory, three CR, 2) Design-Build Studio, six CR, and 3) Study Tour & Documentation of Foreign Study Experience, three CR. Students increase their understanding of place and people, place-based decisions, and how to help communities learn to interconnect with each other and the place through sustainable community development, planning and design.

Program includes 5 weeks at BSU and 5 weeks in Mexico (schedule on reverse side). Mexico portion includes 4 weeks sustainable community master planning and design-build (2007 & 2009 projects above) and 1 week study tour (images below) of Monterrey, Zacatecas (UNESCO World Heritage site), La Quemada archeological zone, ecotourism sites, sustainable villages, and sustainability projects (10X10 housing program, Water and Life water harvesting, food production and green-building).

Based on the full contingent of students, costs for this ten-week 12 CR course is **\$2900 + Tuition Costs for 12 CR+ University Fees for 12 CR**. Architecture students must pay Professional Fee. Each student must also arrange and purchase the ISIC card (\$22) required of any BSU student travelling internationally. (good for 1 calendar year; [www.myisic.com/MyISIC/f](http://www.myisic.com/MyISIC/f)). Food is not included in the trip cost. Students generally eat with their TEC counterparts, enriching the cultural experience.



The project location provides opportunities for learning about sustainability in culturally and environmentally diverse regions. This includes learning about the urban and cultural history of Northern Mexico (pre-Columbian, colonial, contemporary), indigenous production systems (water harvesting; earth-, fiber- and waste-based materials; autonomous construction); urban planning and design; history, architecture and culture; diverse development traditions (informal, progressive, incremental), building with local materials and technologies; community-building in economically-challenged communities; and human and professional relations.



Materials at TEC Recycling Research Lab, created by Dr. Pacheco, and available for Summer 2010 Reconnecting People and Place design-build projects. These materials make projects affordable while integrating development sustainably into local life-cycle resource-flows.



Techniques developed, and buildings produced, in the TEC Master of Urban Sustainability Program are made from earth-, fiber- or waste-based materials. The buildings are used as learning modules for our program (often in deconstruct and reconstruct experiences). Techniques refined at the TEC during the year are used in the summer design-build project.



Summer 2010 Reconnecting People and Place includes study of projects built by BSU & TEC students in previous years and projects, like before and after images above, built in the 10 X 10 program or by students in TEC Master of Urban Sustainability degree program..

#### PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

- May17-June1: BSU-based technology-enhanced videoconferencing sessions with students at the TEC focus on getting to know the students, the country of Mexico, and the community where we will work; Cross-cultural exploration of sustainability, housing, and community development theory and application; Review of previous work by BSU and TEC students; Knowledge-sharing; Project planning and design
- June1-July2: Five week study tour in Monterrey and Northern Mexico; Includes
- Familiarization with the people, place and community, master planning and community design, and design and construction of a small building and site using locally-produced, job-generating, green technologies integrated into site and regional resource-flows.
  - One-week study tour of Monterrey region and Northern Mexico includes major cities of Monterrey and Zacatecas (16h Century gold mining town; now major city with colonial center UNESCO World Heritage site), the archeological zone of La Quemada (300-1200 AD), the tourist / mining town of Real de Catorce, the regionally unique Huajuco Canyon and Horsetail Falls, bioregionally integrated villages, and sustainability projects including the 10X10 sustainable housing program and the Water and Life project as a water harvesting, food production, and green building village (we will make and build with mud bricks). While in Mexico, BSU and TEC students document the foreign study experience and design-build process and products
- June1-July2: BSU-based documentation of the foreign study experience, including people, place and community; master planning and community design; and design-build of the house and site using locally-produced, job-generating, green technologies integrated into site and regional resource-flows.