



INNOVATION HUBS INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY + DESIGN [QUITO LAB]

SPRING 2014 // MAS 552 / 4.557

INSTRUCTORS: KENT LARSON, RYAN CHIN,
RAMIRO ALMEIDA

CLASS TIME Wednesdays 130-430pm

ROOM E14-525

FIRST CLASS WEDNESDAY FEB 5, 2014

DESCRIPTION

The world is experiencing a period of extreme urbanization and we are radically changing the way we live. There is a unique opportunity to design innovation districts to spur economic growth, attract new talent and foster creativity. We want to explore potential strategies for defining how cities best undertake “innovation” activities in existing urban environments. This semester, we will focus on the historical center of Quito, Ecuador, the first World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO in 1978.

Experts from relevant fields will conduct guest lectures. We will engage students in the process of identifying relevant problems, designing project ideas, and evolving them to a detailed set of digital technology and design scenarios for urban and technology ventures. To capture the multi-disciplinary nature of such projects, students are challenged to focus on diverse fields for their proposals, such as city planning, social innovation, architecture, engineering, computer science, and social science. The concepts developed will be evaluated and critiqued throughout the semester.

Students will be asked to develop project proposals to support their initiatives, and focus on the design of resilient, scalable, adaptable, and reconfigurable systems. We will focus on themes and challenges defined by the city. Quito is looking to attract 21st century industries and activities to build a new Innovation District as well as improve the quality of life for the community in the historic town center.

CITY SCIENCE LUNCH TALKS

Each week the City Science Initiative brings in expert guest speakers to talk about innovation in cities immediately before class from 12-130pm (in room E15-383). Students of the class are expected to attend a key number of these talks as they are integral to the course. The mandatory talk schedule will be discussed on the first day of class (Feb 5, 2014)

ENROLLMENT

Students interested in joining the class will be required to submit a CV and/or portfolio, a short essay of interest, and sign up for a short 15-minute interview by email: ramiroal@mit.edu

TRAVEL

This class is open to all students at MIT and Harvard and will involve optional travel to Quito, Ecuador for a site visit during MIT Spring Break March 22nd to 29th.