"The majority of the world’s designers focus all their efforts on developing products and services exclusively for the richest 10% of the world’s customers. Nothing less than a revolution in design is needed to reach the other 90%.”

– DR. PAUL POLAK, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISES

www.pdx.edu/public-interest-design
THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN

The Center for Public Interest Design will help bring together the work of several research units, faculty, and student initiatives at PSU, the US and internationally who have been successfully collaborating for years to address the growing needs of communities worldwide. This diverse team of collaborators will now, through the CPID be supported by permanent faculty and staff who will respond to global needs and support fieldwork with research, coursework, and fundraising. The CPID’s director, Sergio Palleroni, brings three decades of experience working with both international and US efforts to address issues of shelter, education, and resources. Assistant Professor B.D. Wortham-Galvin brings years of experience working with impoverished communities as well as her current efforts in Portland neighborhoods. Assistant Professor Margarete Leite contributes expertise in sustainability, building materials and school conditions in the US and abroad, most recently addressing the unhealthful conditions in the ubiquitous modular classrooms that form the learning environment for so many children.

WHO WE ARE

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Working with cross-disciplinary faculty, research units and students at Portland State University, as well as national and international initiatives, the Center will sponsor activities including service-oriented research, field and built work, development of new paradigms of building and practice, lecture series and symposia that will be open to the public, and publications. Center activities can be seen as threefold—as an agent of change addressing educational programs, a means of engaging with professionals and communities, and as a physical and digital archive of research and best practices supporting these activities.

LOCAL + GLOBAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Here are some current and emerging projects that will first be connected to the Center:
- Titanyen, Haiti Orphanage and Environmental School
- SAGE Green Modular Classroom
- Buenos Aires Informal Settlements and Safe Water Initiative
- Outsiders New Housing Models for Homeless Youth
- Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative
- Habitat for Humanity collaboration
- Rosewood Initiative
- Biking Tour Project
- Design with the Other 90%: Cities Exhibits and Workshops

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The School of Architecture at Portland State University offers an accredited professional education in architecture, following the four + two model: a four-year BA/BS undergraduate major in Architecture and a two-year Master of Architecture with full accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

Our teaching and research are inspired by three priorities:
- Exploring the poetics of material and the communication of cultural meaning
- Speculating upon urban issues and the pleasures and dilemmas of city dwelling
- Promoting community engagement and the application of creative and professional practices toward the common good.

Located in Portland’s dynamic city center, the School of Architecture resides in Shattuck Hall, an elegant 1915 school building transformed into a dynamic contemporary learning environment. Our programs draw energy and inspiration from the city’s vitality through multiple partnerships with the design professions, community organizations and neighborhoods.

We invite you to explore our web site as we renovate and enlarge its content, and learn more about our school and programs. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

CONTACT US

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