

Sustainable Urban Architecture (SUA)

Course Syllabus Trimester 2

Grade Level: 9th Grade

I. Course Details

- **Trimester Focus:** Community-Centered Design
- **Schedule:** December – March (12 Weeks)
- **Class Location:** Design Studio & Technology Lab
- **Course Code:** SUA2025-2026-9T2

II. Unit Overview

Students explore how architecture can improve public life and equity. They investigate the intersection of design, empathy, and civic engagement. Students will design community-serving spaces (e.g., parks, plazas) with accessible and sustainable elements.

III. Essential Question

How can design improve public life and community well-being?

IV. Weekly Breakdown

Week 1-2: Understanding User Needs

- *Topics:* Empathy mapping, accessibility, community demographics
- *Activities:* Role-playing scenarios, community interviews
- *Assessments:* Empathy map and design prompt response

Week 3-4: Urban Space Types & Climate Zoning

- *Topics:* Public parks, plazas, streetscapes, and microclimates

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- *Activities:* Climate zone map analysis, shading strategies
- *Assessments:* Climate-responsive sketch

Week 5-7: Design Development Workshops

- *Topics:* Zoning rules, walkability, stormwater solutions
- *Activities:* Collaborative design labs, planning maps
- *Assessments:* Peer critiques and revised drafts

Week 8-10: Community Park/Plaza Project

- *Project:* Design an inclusive outdoor space for local use • *Output:* Planning map, accessibility features, bilingual design rationale

Week 11-12: Reflection, Presentation & Gallery Walk

- *Activities:* Oral defense, peer review, self-reflection
- *Assessments:* Project rubric + presentation rubric

V. Tools & Resources

- Zoning and urban planning guides
- Climate zone and sun path diagrams
- Interviews or surveys with staff/community members
- Graphic organizers & Lucid templates

VI. Assessments

- Mid-trimester sketch check-in
- Final portfolio submission



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- Rubrics: Accessibility, civic purpose, visual clarity, presentation skills

VII. Special Features

- Guest Panel: Community Planning Leaders (Week 6)
- Peer Review Week: Glow & Grow Protocol (Week 9)
- Digital Tools: SketchUp, Google Slides, Canva, Power Point

VIII. Instructor Contact

- **Name:** Prof. Francis Guillermo Mateo Báez •

Email: fmateo7@schools.nyc.gov

- **Classroom:** Room 448

- **Hours:** M–F | 8:20 AM – 3:00 PM (or by appt) •

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