



***Liberation in
Landscape
Education means
to change not only
what we do, but
also how we do it***

DuSable (North Chicago), Living Tracks (South Chicago), Hosting Life (North Chicago), Monterrey (Latin America), and Vineyard of Change (Chile, Napa, Barcelona) prove that communities, public agencies, NGOs, private actors, and academia—across ages, languages, and regions—can collaborate without competition, hierarchy, or the urge to standardize methods, aesthetics, or outcomes. These works show how landscape architecture can hold difference, urgency, and care—without compromise.

They intervene in real soil, entangled with botany, culture, emerging technologies, and community-led ambitions. Threads in a broader, more turbulent curriculum, where design justice is a current—coursing through core studios, experimental electives, and transdisciplinary collisions. We begin in the streets, enter the classroom with dirt and love on our hands, build triangular solidarities, then return to the streets to grow, test, and disrupt.

Our urban pact and impact reclaim the profession after decades of prioritizing wealthy geographies and colonizing agendas. Rooting justice is our method—restoring land, memory, and the right to belong. This is about pragmatic good. We work with clarity, depth, and care. Receiving this award will honor our ambition—and signal what landscape architecture education must become.

Illinois Institute of Technology
College of Architecture
Master of Landscape Architecture +
Urbanism Towards Design Justice

The five projects representing the IIT Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism are declarations—living embodiments of Towards Design Justice, a pedagogy grounded in care and the belief that landscapes prioritize people over property, ecology over extraction, and joy over compliance. Each project was chosen for conceptual clarity, engagement with justice through design, and ability to spark collective action across language, territory, and difference.

LIVING CREEK | ARROYO VIVO

“And if the bird flies, it is only because it sings... one only has to listen to the illuminated river that begins in its throat.”

—from “Hipótesis del vuelo”, by Margarita Michelena.

Arroyo Vivo reframes the arroyo as a living voice—ancestral, ecological, and expressive. It is a language: illuminated, embodied, and resonant. It becomes the art of listening—and the act of letting the river sing again.



Country/City

United States, Chicago, South Side.

University / School

Illinois Institute of Technology, College of Architecture, Master in Landscape Architecture and Urbanism. Towards Design Justice.

Academic year

2023-2024.

Title of the project

Living Creek: Arroyo Vivo, Monterrey, Mexico.

Authors

Madison Weick, Anya Mehta-Rao, Caleb Hadley, Bowen Song, Chu-Fan Tzou, Huanyu Wang, Kevin Garcia, Galilea Ines, Jorge Mayorga, Jincheng Chen, Mansi Kishan Prajapati, Mohammad Arabmazar, Sadiql Islam Shehab, Maurice Gaston, Ruth Muniz, Persefoni Stamatis, Zhicong Fang, and Omar Rodriguez.

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Title of the course	Living Creek: Arroyo Vivo, Monterrey, Mexico.
Academic year	2023-2024.
Teaching Staff	Maria A. Villalobos H., Maurice Cox, Dirk Denison, and Justin Degroff, with Monterrey Tech.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master in Landscape Architecture and Urbanism. Towards Design Justice.
University / School	Illinois Institute of Technology, College of Architecture.



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Arroyo Vivo Studio is a binational, transdisciplinary design studio uniting students and faculty from Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Illinois Institute of Technology. Anchored in the ecological and social regeneration of the Arroyo Seco(also known as Arroyo San Agustín), the studio confronts one of the most urgent urban challenges in the Monterrey metropolitan region: reconciling rapid urbanization with the restoration of natural systems. Spanning the municipalities of Monterrey, San Pedro Garza García, and Guadalupe, this rugged river corridor—tucked within the Sierra Madre mountains—hosts a fragile yet vibrant landscape of deep canyons, drought-resistant vegetation, and ancestral hydrological networks. The studio reframed the arroyo not as residual space but as a “mother river”—a life-giving ecological spine capable of cultivating biodiversity, cultural identity, and climate resilience. In close dialogue with local stakeholders, students developed transformation scenarios that remediate environmental degradation while envisioning public infrastructures for equity, proximity, and renewed connection to nature. The process emphasized ancestral land knowledge, territorial inequality, and emergent urban ecologies. The result is a set of visionary proposals rooted in the belief that restoring the health of the river also restores civic life. Arroyo Vivo becomes a landscape of regeneration—where water, community, and territory converge to imagine new urban futures. This collaboration continues through long-term research and implementation. Monterrey Tech has since opened Oasis, a public space in Campana serving hundreds daily with free classes, markets, and recreation—marking the first step toward transforming Campana into Monterrey’s urban botanical garden.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

