



SCHOOL OF PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

IMPACT BOOK | 2024-25

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT | INTERIOR DESIGN | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING | NATIONAL CHARRETTE INSTITUTE**

VISION

We collaborate to create sustainable and healthy built, natural, and virtual environments.

MISSION

We advance the knowledge, prepare innovative leaders, and support the practice of planning, design, and construction.



SPARTANS

BUILT TO LEAD

The School of Planning, Design and Construction (SPDC) at Michigan State University is **deeply aligned with MSU's land-grant mission**, which emphasizes transforming lives and advancing knowledge through outstanding education, research, and community engagement to benefit individuals and communities.

As the **only unit dealing with natural, built and virtual environments**, SPDC offers nine degree programs from four accredited academic programs. SPDC is uniquely positioned to address critical societal, economic and environmental challenges while contributing significantly to MSU's mission and the state's prosperity.



STRATEGIC PLAN

ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT

- Integrate innovative teaching methods; interactive, experiential, and hands-on learning opportunities; and real-world problems through community engagement.
- Implement targeted recruitment strategies to attract diverse students and enhance support structures to improve student retention and success.

SUPPORTING FACULTY & STAFF SUCCESS

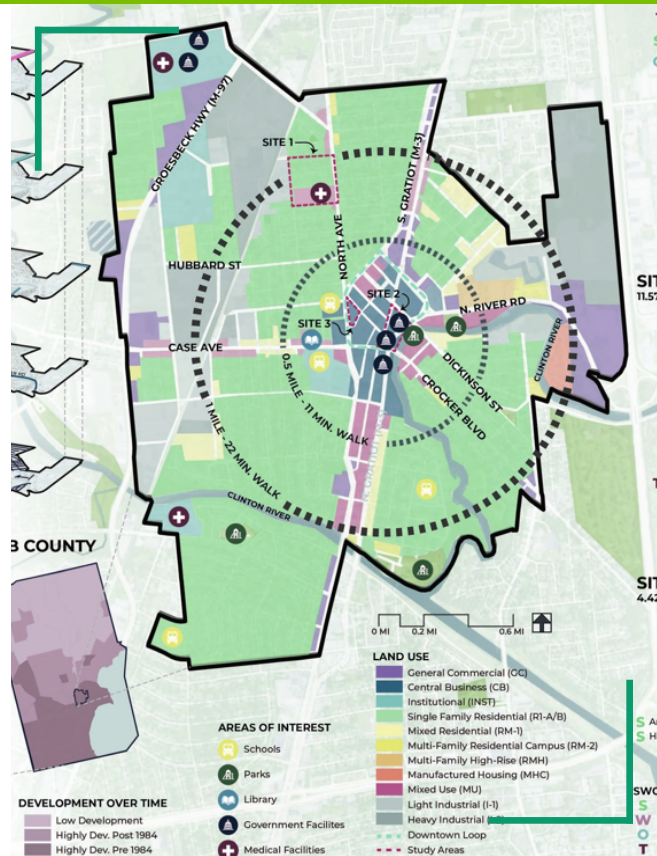
- Recruit, retain, and ensure timely and equitable promotion and advancement of all faculty and staff.
- Cultivate a school climate that is welcoming to and inclusive of all faculty and staff.
- Ensure that SPDC leadership and decision-making structures provide inclusive and equitable access to information, processes, and policies, as well as opportunities for stakeholders to voice opinions and concerns.

ADVANCING RESEARCH & INTERDISCIPLINARY EFFORTS

- Advance our research discovery by continuing and expanding interdisciplinary collaborations within and beyond the school.
- Serve MSU's land-grant mission through applied research and outreach (local, state, national, and global).

MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL LONGEVITY

- Create a comprehensive communication plan to share a consistent, positive, and well-recognized identity with our stakeholders.
- Build a physical presence (Human Ecology & lab spaces) that aligns with our vision for a sustainable and healthy built, natural and virtual environment.
- Provide exemplary stewardship of institutional resources to foster the long-term sustainability of SPDC and its high-quality education, research, outreach and engagement programs.



PROGRAMS



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT est. 1948

Bachelor of Science in Construction Management | Master of Science in Construction Management | Ph.D. Concentration in Construction Management

- Accredited by the American Council for Construction Education since 1999



INTERIOR DESIGN est. 1935

Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design | Master of Arts in Environmental Design | Ph.D. Concentration in Environmental Design

- Accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation since 1976



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE est. 1898

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture | Master of Arts in Environmental Design | BLA/MED Dual Degree | Ph.D. Concentration in Environmental Design

- Accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board since 1952



URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING est. 1946

Bachelor of Science in Urban & Regional Planning | Master of Urban & Regional Planning | Master of International Planning Studies (online) | Ph.D. Concentration in Urban & Regional Planning

- Accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board since 1987



NATIONAL CHARRETTE INSTITUTE joined 2017

- NCI Charrette System - an accelerated, collaborative, design-based process



ENROLLMENT (AY 24-25)

TOTAL ENROLLED: 683

75% Increase from 390 in Academic Year 2017-18

47 FACULTY

13 Tenured, 9 Tenure-Track, 16 Specialists, 9 Part-Time Instructors

7 FULL-TIME STAFF

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: 612

- Construction Management: 336
- Interior Design: 97
- Landscape Architecture: 107
- Urban & Regional Planning: 72

GRADUATE STUDENTS: 71

- MS in Construction Management: 6
- MA in Environmental Design: 15
- MS in Urban & Regional Planning: 23
- Master of International Planning Studies (online): 2
- Ph.D. Program: 25

CORE SCHOLARLY AREAS OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES & ADAPTATION
- HOUSING INNOVATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING
- ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT

SPDC is an interdisciplinary hub addressing challenges from the local to the global scale. We create sustainable and healthy environments across built, natural, and virtual spaces. As a leader in promoting innovative, sustainable, and resilient solutions through a focus on community engagement and advanced intelligent technology, SPDC's faculty expertise aligns with four core research areas, each contributing to transformative impacts in academia, industry, and society.

Since 2017, SPDC faculty have secured over ***\$26 million in external funding*** and published nearly ***300 peer-reviewed articles***, maintaining and enhancing our scholarly leadership and supporting innovative research agendas in our core scholarly areas.





STUDENT SUCCESS

ALL **FOUR**
PROGRAMS
RANKED IN
TOP 20
NATIONALLY

96% JOB
PLACEMENT
WITHIN **2 YEARS**
OF GRADUATION

REAL-WORLD
PROJECTS &
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- SPDC students engage in high-impact projects, gaining hands-on experiential learning opportunities with real-world projects and sites.
- Students receive direct client feedback, preparing them for professional challenges and contributing to community development locally and globally.



SCHOLARSHIPS & ENDOWMENTS

With support from our endowments, SPDC awarded **a total of \$478,454 in scholarships** to existing and incoming students during the AY 24-25, including:

- \$71,050 in Construction Management
- \$31,994 in Interior Design
- \$312,710 in Landscape Architecture
- \$62,700 in Urban and Regional Planning

SPDC

BUILT TO LEAD



DRAWING BLUEPRINTS FOR VICTORY

The Residential Construction Competition Team Won Second Place at the National Association of Home Builders' Annual Student Competition.

The 2025 competition marks the sixth top-three finish in the past seven years.

SHAPING LEADERS

Planning, Design and Construction Ph.D. candidate, Danna Gutiérrez Lanza, joined the Governing Board of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in 2025 as a Student Representative.



GROWING LEGACY

Landscape Architecture alumnus, Stephanie Onwenu, and student, Ava Yon, were both recognized during the National Conference of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in Washington D.C.

Onwenu was awarded the 2025 Emerging Professional Medal, and Yon received two scholarships, one from the MI Chapter ASLA and one from the National ASLA Council of Fellows.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

SPDC hosted its annual Awards Ceremony to celebrate scholarship and award recipients across all academic programs.

The ceremony also allows the school to show its gratitude to the donors who fund and support such opportunities.



EARNING ACCLAIM

Landscape Architecture students, Grace Densham, Jakobi Johnson, and Saida Mazariegos, won a 2024 Merit Award in Design from the MI Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for their project, "Grand River Renaissance."



FORGING PATHS

True to SPDC's interdisciplinary nature, Interior Design Student, Lauren Reiss won a traditionally construction-centered scholarship.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

The National Charrette Institute, along with students and faculty from the Urban & Regional Planning program, facilitated Lansing REO Town stakeholders to define a vision for the community.

PLANNING FOR EXCELLENCE

Urban & Regional Planning's Capstone Practicum Course exemplifies SPDC's focus on service learning. Students tackle real-life community issues along with stakeholders and local partners.

Two projects received a 2024 Planning Excellence Award for Outstanding Student Project from the Michigan Association of Planning.





MORNINGSIDE HOUSING REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

Submitted: Savannah Briggs, Denise Hall, Taylor Jackson, Catherine Pearson & Paige Smith



Project Description: The Morningside Housing Revitalization Strategy is a planning endeavor that seeks to create an inclusive, environmentally sensitive urban agri-community. With a focus on sustainable development and regenerative practices, the project aims to address environmental challenges while fostering community engagement and well-being.

Key Recommendations: Our recommendations, devised through meticulous research and stakeholder engagement, are structured to address identified challenges effectively. They fall into two tiers: exploring alternative site selection due to constraints at the current location and proceeding with the site while implementing strategic measures to mitigate its limitations.

Tier 1 Recommendations: Need on the road for a larger area to accommodate the project's agricultural and housing needs, considering the current site's restrictions, such as wetland presence and limited developable space.

Tier 2 Recommendations: encompass a range of strategies:

- Wetlands Conservation
- Land Management
- Water Management
- Ecological Enhancement
- Softwood Plantation
- Agri-Tourism
- Agri-Business
- Agri-Residence

Housing Strategy: Inform, Expand, Replicate

Site Plan: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z



LADYBUG LADYBUG Sustainable Community

Project Description: The Ladybug Sustainable Community at Church Hill Gardens project is a planning endeavor that seeks to create an inclusive, environmentally sensitive urban agri-community. With a focus on sustainable development and regenerative practices, the project aims to address environmental challenges while fostering community engagement and well-being.

Key Recommendations: Our recommendations, devised through meticulous research and stakeholder engagement, are structured to address identified challenges effectively. They fall into two tiers: exploring alternative site selection due to constraints at the current location and proceeding with the site while implementing strategic measures to mitigate its limitations.

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SERVING OTHERS

Construction Management alumnus, Alan (Al) Scott, received a CANR Alumni Service Award.

The award honors alumni who have demonstrated continuing outstanding volunteer service to MSU, the CANR or meritorious public service on a local, state, national or international level.



LEADING THE WAY

Construction Management Student, Kendyll Borchert, received the 2025 CANR Outstanding Student Leadership Award.

The award recognizes a graduating senior who exemplifies leadership and service across their department, the college, the university and the broader community.

EDUCATION ABROAD





INTERIOR DESIGN IN ITALY

A unique opportunity for students to develop a global perspective and explore both historic and contemporary architecture and interior design.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN EUROPE / ASIA

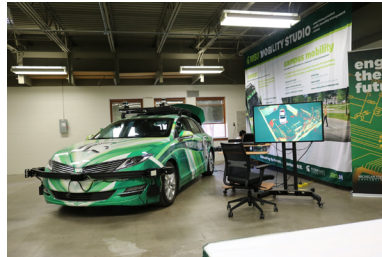
Alternating between European and Asian destinations year-to-year, students study the evolution of landscape architecture, urban design and reclamation in differing cultural contexts.



EUROPEAN PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Designed for students with an interest in cities, design and sustainability, this program examines the challenges and development issues of planning and urban redevelopment in European cities.

Thanks to the
**generous
donations of
alumni and
friends,** students
from the School of
Planning, Design
and Construction
are able to
have **enriching
educational
experiences.**



GIVING

The School of Planning, Design and Construction is proud to provide our students with both **world-class instruction** in and **practical application** of the necessary skills today's built environment industries demand. Your donations help SPDC continue our storied history as a leader in the Construction Management, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, and Urban & Regional Planning disciplines.

With the gracious support of and donations from our alumni and friends, SPDC's students can always expect access to **leading technologies** as well as one-of-a-kind **student engagement opportunities**, from **education abroad** to attendance at **national industry conferences**.

In addition to supporting excellence in the classroom, your donations help SPDC develop cutting-edge research opportunities that strengthen the reputation of our already storied programs and provide students the ability to work on real-world projects.

Scan the QR Code below to help SPDC educate and inspire, as well as generate new knowledge and solutions to improve the built, natural, and virtual environments.





visit spdc.msu.edu



School of Planning, Design and Construction
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY