

4.214J - 11.314J

Water, Landscape and Urban Design



Water affects the design of every building, site, and city in aesthetic, functional, and symbolic ways. This workshop examines issues of water-conserving design, with an emphasis on urban water use and stormwater management. In addition to lectures and discussion, workshop participants will develop water-conserving design proposals at the site and neighborhood scales informed by international precedents and practice.

Each year the workshop focuses on the schematic design of a project in the U.S., informed by precedents from South Asia. We construct analogies between precedents in these two regions in ways help “expand the range of choice” among water-conserving design alternatives. This year we will explore green infrastructure alternatives for stormwater design in the Kendall Square area of MIT, an area with a high proportion of impervious surfaces that is slated for development. We will address four main aims and questions:

1. Intensive Site Analysis & Interpretation:
“Where is the Walden Within MIT?”
2. Green Infrastructure Planning:
“Could MIT Construct a Nano-Fenway?”
3. Schematic Landscape Design:
“Could MIT win an Aga Khan Award for Architecture?”
4. Design Implementation and Evaluation:
“What Difference Can it Make?”

Our project coincides with USEPA’s “Campus Rainworks Challenge,” which student teams may wish to enter (see http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/crw_challenge.cfm).

Fall 2012

DAY:	Monday and Wednesday
TIME:	9:00 -12:00
ROOM:	9-250
PROF:	James Wescoat
UNITS/LEVEL:	3-3-6 H
REQUISITE:	Permission of Instructor.

