THE STUDIO AND PROJECT
OregonBILDS is a School of Architecture & Environment residential design-build program, growing in national recognition since its founding in 2012 by Rob Thallon. BILDS stands for “Building Integrated Livable Designs Sustainably”, which outlines its key principles. In this program, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Interior Architecture students work together to design and construct an affordable residence over the course of several terms. This Winter studio will be the fifth to design a house and garden that will be constructed by following OregonBILDS program classes. The product of the studio will be a set of construction drawings for a house and garden that will be built on a lot adjacent to previous BILDS houses, during future UO terms.

THE PHILOSOPHY
To succeed both pedagogically and financially, the OregonBILDS program has been designed to produce a small, affordable residence that responds to the local market, while also focusing on “low-tech”, environmentally responsible strategies. Polling of local housing typologies, and the advice of local contractors and real estate experts, will inform design choices. The goal is to produce a design solution that is beautiful, practical, sustainable, and replicable.

THE TOPICS
Early focus will be on understanding site characteristics, essential program needs, environmental response strategies, affordable building technologies, and preliminary budget and regulatory issues, as the determinants of schematic design proposals. Later in the term, the focus will shift to design development considerations in coalescing a selected design, along with methods and means to refine and document that design, with special emphasis on materials, building systems, and construction details. Topics will also include:

- The nature of sustainable architecture – strategies, concepts, systems, materials
- Integration of building technology to define and support the spirit of the project.
- Fundamental issues of affordable housing.
- Fundamentals of residential design – site design, building design, budget, legal restrictions.
- Collaboration, teamwork, and the role of the individual in the design process.
- The potential for efficiencies of prefabrication.

THE FORMAT
The entire studio will work collaboratively toward developing a single design that can be constructed by UO students in a neighborhood in west Eugene. The first few weeks of studio will be dedicated to defining the problem in terms of program, energy performance, code restrictions, and market forces; from which each student will make an individual proposal for a design. The studio will then work collectively to synthesize the best elements of each design into cohesive proposals that will be developed through the rest of the term. The end result will be a set of construction drawings, ready for building permit submittal, for a single design that represents the vision of the entire class.