

*superfluous studio:*

## DINGAMAJIG: MULTI-COURT COMPLEX

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Tutor: to be announced

Meetings: Wednesdays  
@9:00-18:00  
(detailed schedule on page 5)





## 1: STUDIO DESCRIPTION

This semester, superfluous studio will investigate the *dingbat court apartment typology* through a hybrid drawing-driven design approach. Students will design a **mixed-use, multi-court complex** that integrates residential, commercial, and social programs in **Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles**, rethinking the relationship between housing, public space, and infrastructure.

The site reflects a pressing urban condition in California—**neighborhoods disrupted by wildfires, where homes once stood, now reduced to empty lots in need of thoughtful redevelopment**. The destruction has fractured the continuity of the urban fabric, leaving gaps in both community life and physical space. To address this, students will develop a complex that serves residents, office workers, students, and the broader public, blending private and communal life within a resilient architectural framework.

The studio draws inspiration from Los Angeles' *dingbat* housing, a mid-century multi-family typology (coined by **Reyner Banham**) known for its efficiency and car-centric design, as well as the court typology, which has long been a model for dense, community-oriented living. By reinterpreting these precedents, students will explore how hybrid housing models can foster urban vitality, aid in post-disaster recovery, and promote new patterns of shared living.

Ultimately, the studio's goal is to establish a **new urban image**—one that is not only programmatically functional but also **rooted in strong form-based architectural studies**, ensuring that the evolving identity of Los Angeles is as much about spatial coherence as it is about resilience and livability.

## 2: COURSE ORGANIZATION & DESIGN PROCESS

This studio will be conducted in **English**, and all projects will be developed in **teams of two students** to encourage collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange. Regular **attendance is mandatory**, as active participation in discussions, critiques, and iterative design development is essential for a successful learning process. The course will be structured around a series of lectures, site analyses, research-driven explorations, and iterative design exercises, culminating in a final presentation that synthesizes conceptual, technical, and formal aspects of the project.

A key infrastructural focus will be ensuring **seamless pedestrian accessibility** while addressing the challenge of rebuilding in a way that strengthens urban and social continuity. Students must carefully balance public, semi-private, and private domains—creating spaces for gathering while preserving residential privacy. The studio's challenge is to **reimagine the site not just as a reconstruction effort but as an opportunity to create a more adaptable urban environment**.

**Hybrid drawings** will serve as a critical methodology in the design process, allowing students to layer existing conditions with new interventions through an iterative and interdisciplinary approach. These drawings will form the basis for a **2D-to-3D transformation process**, in which students will extract key spatial, material, and structural elements to generate massing strategies. Through physical and digital models, students will explore solid and void spaces, city density and contemporary urban living, developing proposals that balance architectural form with program integration.

At a time when wildfires continue to reshape communities across California, rebuilding Los Angeles' new image with new types of housing and public spaces is more critical than ever. Thoughtful design interventions can help restore a sense of place, resilience, and belonging, ensuring that the city's evolving landscape is both adaptive and inclusive.





15327 W SUNSET BLVD, LOS ANGELES



### 3: PROJECT SITE

Located in the coastal neighborhood of Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, this semester's architectural design studio focuses on redeveloping plots where homes, businesses, and infrastructure once stood—now reduced to empty land by the recent wildfires. More than just physical loss, the fire displaced families, erased memories and disrupted the fabric of a community.

This studio challenges students to approach **post-disaster rebuilding** with sensitivity and innovation, addressing resilience, sustainability, and the emotional weight of reconstruction. How can architecture not only replace what was lost but create more adaptive spaces, that can inhabit urban programs and conditions for both the landscape and the people who will return?