

**LTDesign Research Network**  
National Studio Project Theme “Abandoned”

**University of Calgary MLA M1 Studio Description**

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*By bringing the effects of time back to life and appearance, the designer may both restore and prepare sites for often unforeseeable futures. Thus, there is also invoked an attitude of incompleteness; rather than building a final solution, seeds are sown, questions raised, and potential structured. In so doing, a designer may also highlight the stages of implementation and the measures required to sustain or develop it.*

- Sébastien Marot, 1999

Calgary is one of seven MLA Programs across Canada that agreed to engage in a National Studio theme within their own multi-faceted regional contexts. The National theme of ‘Abandoned’ was the driving force for our Winter 2020 MLA Year 1 studio. How we understand the meaning of ‘Abandoned’ spaces in literal and metaphorical ways and how this plays out in physical and historical contexts was explored through our studio site analysis and design probes. The Studio focused on the Nose Creek Valley on the east side of Calgary. Over time, this area has multiple glacial, ecological, industrial, and urban development historical layers and stories. This studio engaged participants in developing a spatial and critical understanding of the Southern Nose Creek Corridor’s urban landscape mosaic and its diverse complex interfaces involving its relationship with the adjacent communities of Bridgeland, St. George’s Heights, and Renfrew, the Bow River, the City Centre, the Calgary Zoo, Telus Spark Science Centre, and major highway, railway, and LRT infrastructure. Students defined the boundaries of their individual project areas with an awareness that *“In the landscape, there is not a hard limit, so closed that it does not crack and open on adjacent spaces. The elements of a landscape are always characterized by their faculty of overflowing, by the diversity and the complexity of facts that link them to the next element”* –M. Corajoud, 2000. Each studio project represents a design synthesis of this awareness/analysis of structural/morphological landscape systems and more intangible or ephemeral meanings of ‘Abandoned’ that tell a story of how landscape identity can be uncovered, created, conserved, and imagined.