

# **SUSTAINABLE FUTURES**

## **Monteverde, Costa Rica**

**May 25 – August 3, 2008 (10 weeks)**

**Program Director:** Lynda Schneekloth

**Participating Faculty:** Dennis Andrejko; Kevin Connors; Robert Shibley from UB  
Stacy Harwood, Scott Shannon, Pamela Harwood, David Myers; Shenglin Chang  
Anibal Torres, Course Coordinator

### **Introduction**

Sustainable Futures is an interdisciplinary study abroad program in architecture, landscape architecture and planning that takes place in a small, rural community seeking to understand what it means to live sustainably next to a tropical rainforest. The program is held in conjunction with the Monteverde Institute and is sponsored by the School of Architecture and Planning at UB along with University of Maryland Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois, Planning, Syracuse University, Landscape Architecture and Ball State, Architecture. The 10 week course is divided into two terms of four weeks each, with one week of orientation and one week of break.

The program uses practice as a learning approach and introduces intervention theory and placemaking as the basis of design and planning work. We work with local communities on design and planning projects they identify: real projects, real clients, real professional service.

### **Courses offered:**

**Students work at the Institute from 8 to 5 each day.**

**Sustainable Futures** (Kevin Connors, Stacy Harwood and faculty from other universities) 6 credits undergrad / 7 credits grad

Projects to be developed in collaboration with local community that address issues of environmental, material and social sustainability. Projects are used by community groups (and at times by participating students) to make physical changes, serve as design concepts for future professional development, and as planning and policy tools for the community.

**Sustainable Design** (Kevin Connors, Stacy Harwood, U of Illinois and other lecturers)  
3 credits undergrad/grad

The seminar covers the theory and practice of sustainable design and planning in an international context.

**Independent Study /Cross Cultural Studies** (Participating Faculty and MVI Faculty)  
3 credits undergrad/grad

The course is designed to facilitate the experience of living in and pursuing professional education in a different culture. Components include readings and lectures, Spanish language instruction, homestay experience and reflection, weekly discussion/seminars on international practice, and reflective writings.

Total credits: 12 undergrad/13 grad

### **Classroom/studio space:**

Classes are held at the Monteverde Institute where there is studio space, a library, computer facilities and other academic support.

**Housing:**

Students participate in homestay with a Costa Rica family and live within a 40 minutes walk of the Institute. The intention is to live 'in' the community to better understand the culture and find appropriate expressions of architecture and planning in context.

**Local transportation:**

Travel in the country, except for the week break, will be managed by the Monteverde Institute. The primary mode of transportation in Monteverde is walking.

**Costs:**

**Program fee:** includes tuition, lodging and food, classroom space, in-country transportation, local coordinator

\$7,300

**Additional estimated costs:**

Air fare	\$600 - \$800
Personal expenses	\$1,000 - \$3,000

**Total (program fee + estimated costs) \$ 8,900 – \$11,100**

**For further information:** [www.sustainablefutures.org](http://www.sustainablefutures.org);

Monteverde Institute <[www.mvinstitute.org](http://www.mvinstitute.org)>

