Design Duluth Studio
ARCH 8255 | Fall Semester 2013
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Course Information:
Motivated in part by catastrophic flooding in June 2012, the Design Duluth Studio began in the Fall of 2012 as an interdisciplinary 3rd year Graduate M.Arch and MLA design studio in order to help the city of Duluth, Minnesota envision and plan for a sustainable and resilient future. Now a long-term initiative with the city and over twenty public, private and government stakeholders, the design studio has evolved into a multi-year, collaborative academic, public engagement and civic project aimed at developing alternative urban futures for Duluth. The design studio is inspired in part by the Mayor of Duluth’s “90by20” initiative – a program to help grow Duluth’s population to 90,000 by the year 2020. Plateaued at a population of approximately 86,000 people since the 1980’s, Duluth has one of the oldest housing stocks in the United States and among the highest poverty levels in Minnesota. The city is located on Lake Superior and is challenged also by landscape morphologies and the deep cultural and historic connection to the industrial heritage of the Iron Range. Part of the studio mandate is to help develop and imagine resilient - and sustainable - processes for new cultural, economic, landscape and architectural initiatives in the city.