

## DEA 6250: Collaborative Sustainable Building Practice

Recognized by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) *Excellence in Green Building Curriculum Grant*.  
Also supported by the *Cornell Faculty Innovation in Teaching Program*.

3 credits, graduate & senior level, Tue. and Thur. 1:25 – 2:40 pm

Instructor: Prof. Ying Hua, Department of Design and Environmental Analysis (yh294@cornell.edu)

This course is designed to respond to one of the biggest barriers to the transformation of the building sector from current business-as-usual mode towards sustainable practice, i.e. the complex stakeholder structure and the fragmented delivery value chain in the building sector. The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive and integral understanding of sustainable building practices, through examining a series of key forces and players in the building delivery process and building life-cycle who have different magnitude of impact on the adoption of sustainable practice.

This course features two unique characteristics. One is the emphasis on looking at building practice from a broad scope and a life-cycle point of view that go beyond the perspective of single professions and specific technical solutions. Recognizing the fact that the technological solutions have been available for a long time, the challenge in transforming traditional building practice is to shift the focus from the perspective of individual professions to a more integrated collaborative process. As part of this transformation, all the stakeholders in the building lifecycle, from developers and architects to engineers and facility managers, need to have a shared vision and common values about the need to work together creatively to produce buildings that support environmental sustainability and the quality of life of the occupants. The other unique feature is the opportunity for students to work with a professional film maker to create a short film that draws on students' examination of the role of different stakeholders in the building process to explore video as a more engaging means of communicating than is afforded by traditional term papers the value that comes from a common value and vision among diverse stakeholders.

**The course is intended for students from a wide range of majors**, including architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, facility planning and management, interior design, engineering, real estate, hospitality administration, public policy and management, business and finance, etc., who could play different roles related to the design, construction, and management of buildings in their career. The attention of the students is oriented towards non-technological factors and beyond single green buildings and one-fold solutions. Upon completion of this course, students are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of the interaction among policy, legislation, economy, market, culture, creativity and technology in the building sector. This understanding is definitely beneficial for the transformation of the building sector towards sustainability.