

# exhibit: urban

## STUDIO BOX

### Standard vs. Custom

Standardization is one of the great secrets of industrial processes – objects that are all the same are faster and less expensive to produce in less time using less specialized skill. Therefore mass-produced products – “standard” products – are less expensive and available in a shorter time frame than those that are crafted especially for a given project – “custom” products. This principle applies to products used to construct sites (pavers, railings) and buildings (cabinets, trim), and to products used to furnish them (benches, sofas). In this project, we apply this principle to the design of a single site to represent a group of sites.

### The Standard Site

Each student will select one site to serve as the standard site out of his/her selected pilot project sites. A good standard site is an average site, not a special one, because the design worked out for it would be modified as little as possible to fit your other pilot project sites. The standard site is the prototype for the rest. If you have multiple boxes located on a single site, you should select a portion of that site (size TBA in class) with a single box to develop further. Standard site designs must meet these criteria:

- Each site for a studio box must support its box and the box occupants at a site scale as well as your primary and secondary areas of emphasis (social/ecological/economic) at a district scale. This site-scale function requires the following:
  - An outdoor space suitable for relaxation and mental restoration
  - Security measures suitable for an urban area, such as lighting, provision of open sight lines, fences (or not)...
  - Elements or strategies to minimize energy use and maximize occupant comfort
  - Access to box door(s), appropriate site elements, and the wider world
  - Provision for occupants' access to the site: parking (OK if adjacent to site), bike parking, bus...
- Other optional elements: You may wish to include some of these, depending on your selected areas of emphasis:
  - Native or other plantings for habitat, carbon sequestration, beautification, etc.
  - Sustainable stormwater elements, such as rain gardens or rain barrels.
  - Signage or other elements identifying the site as part of ESF
  - Site elements creating a unified appearance or design vocabulary between your pilot project sites.
  - Elements encouraging public interaction.
  - Elements showcasing the work of the occupants.