

***Parcels and Peppers: Savory Ideas for Addressing Vacancy in St. Louis* now available**

This summer, 18 landscape architecture graduate students led by Associate Professors Blake Belanger and Howard Hahn concentrated on the challenges and opportunities of vacant land in St. Louis. With nearly 25,000 vacant parcels in the City, there is an urgent need for ideas and approaches to transform vacant land, from the scale of single lots to entire urban districts.

The 2015 Community Planning and Design Studio book *Parcels and Peppers: Savory Ideas for Addressing Vacancy in St. Louis* presents planning and design strategies for understanding vacancy conditions, a range of ideas for repurposing vacant property, and a variety of methods for engaging people in a planning and design dialogue about vacancy. Throughout the book we use a metaphor of “spiciness” to communicate a gradient of ideas, inspired by the chili pepper shape of St. Louis’ city boundary. We worked with K-State’s Technical Assistance for Brownfields Communities, the City of St. Louis, and representatives from the White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, which the Obama Administration tasked with providing technical advice and expertise to seven cities with the intent of regaining economic footing. We hope the work from the summer studio will be inspirational to residents, planners, scholars, activists, non-profits, and change-makers in St. Louis and other Legacy Cities.

The 2015 Community Planning and Design Studio book *Parcels and Peppers: Savory Ideas for Addressing Vacancy in St. Louis* is now available for [download](#) and [hardcopy purchase](#).