Located in Detroit, Michigan, "The City of Makers", the goal of this community outreach and educational center is to combine the design services of professionals and students to renovate abandoned properties at affordable price points. This design center would combine the skill sets of experienced professionals and students pursuing a design education to revitalize struggling locations throughout the downtown area. Services will range from personal consultations and small-scale projects to full-home remodels.

Due to Detroit's community issues of abandoned properties and population decline, Architexture is a shared space where people can come together and make a difference. Through the center's affiliation with the College for Creative Studies, interior design students will come together with certified professionals and provide services to re-build the neglected areas of Detroit. The school's values and beliefs lie within helping the community through sustainable, hands-on projects with a focus on conceptual and creative thinking. Students working within the Design Center will gain experience through interacting with their mentors, the community, and exercising their skill set to give back to the city of Detroit.

The number of people moving into the suburbs of Detroit has forced the city to invest on several large scale projects focusing on getting people back into the downtown area, yet nothing has prevailed. Abandoned properties are an issue that the city has been struggling with for over a decade. Between 2000 and 2010 the population plummeted 25% and has dropped below 700,000 for the first time in nearly a century. As of 2015, the estimated population stands at 680,000. With 100,000 vacant lots in the 139 square miles, a fourth of the housing units (45,000), averaging at 1,000 square feet, are abandoned. With Detroit on its way to prosperity, great opportunity is available for young designers to give back to the community and gain experience at the same time. The ultimate goal would be to provide affordable housing and business space in the city center and give students the opportunitiy to work within a community that they can have a significant impact on.









Biggest population decreases since 2000 among major cities"





Percent of Detroit vacancies Dec. 2005-Dec. 2012



More than 1 in 3 Detroit properties has been foreclosed in the past 10 years. The total, 140,000, includes nearly 65,000 mortgage foreclosures.

