Main street is almost alright.

— Robert Venturi,
Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture (1962)
Like all big cities, it consisted of irregularity, change, sliding forward, not keeping in step, collisions of things and affairs, and fathomless points of silence in between, of paved ways and wilderness, of one great rhythmic throb and the perpetual discord and dislocation of all opposing rhythms, and as a whole resembles a seething, bubbling fluid in a vessel consisting of the solid material of buildings, laws, regulations, and historical traditions.

— Robert Musil, The Man Without Qualities (1930-42)

Main Street Studio included a field trip to Los Angeles and the vicinity to study urban and spatial conditions relevant to the studio theme. Excursions included studies of LA’s Main Streets and and site visits to award-winning projects by Koning Eizenberg, Michael Maltzan, Todd Williams and Billie Tsien, Louis Kahn, Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, and others, as well as theatrical and artistic adventures.

Poetry is in everything—in land and in sea, in lake and in riverside. It is in the city too—deny it not—it is evident to me here as I sit: there is poetry in this table, in this paper, in this inkstand... in the rattling of cars on the streets, in each minute, common, ridiculous motion of a workman, who on the other side of the street is painting the sign of a butcher’s shop.

— Fernando Pessoa, Always Astonished
Ye Lin, URBAN TEXTURES: This project imagined a dense and thriving downtown Winnipeg with multi-level multi-modal transportation and mixed-use multi-family residences with vibrant spaces in-between. A set of imagined characters and scenarios animated the design process, including a Dreamer (on a merry-go-round), a Yogi in isolated meditation, a Family engaged in meal making, and urban pedestrians seeking cultural connections.
Ye Lin, URBAN TEXTURES.
Chuan Tong: This mixed-use housing development densely straddles the rail line and builds connections above and below the divisive infrastructure, while animating the most prominent section of Main Street with shops and amenities. The fast pace locomotion of the site is amplified with an underground nightclub and offset with a soothing yoga facility hovering over slow moving trains.
Trevor Coulthaud  Sited at the meeting of the river and elevated railway, where a popular ball park backs onto the historic warehouse district – this project adaptively reimagines the Nutty Club (a heritage candy factory) into a tasty museum celebrating Winnipeg's biscuit business. Interconnected public and garden spaces extend throughout the design to accommodate urban lovers, candy lovers and the nuttiness of game day!
Nathan Johns. DISEMBODIED ARCHITECTURE. Merging the corporeal and the monstrous, with technically sophisticated breathing walls and interwoven spaces of nature and dwelling, this thesis proposes an architecture of reconciliation for the Forks. Across from the gargantuan new Museum for Human Rights, this mixed-use housing, market and school facility, seeks mediating urban, domestic and cultural conditions at multiple scales.