The “Working on Cities studio” is a joint project by the Academy of Architecture Rotterdam (AvBR), the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana.

The project was an exceptional opportunity for students to work in an interdisciplinary and international group setting, with participation from architects, urban designers and urban management professionals from housing, environment, planning, governance and social development disciplines and from countries across the globe. Some 24 participants worked together in 4 groups over a period of 9 months on the development of a sustainable integrated development plan and design projects for the informal and low income settlement of Ayigya in Kumasi, Ghana. A series of 3 weekend workshops, study tours to Ghana, lectures were organized before student design and research work was presented. The study tours to Ghana included a workshop with students from KNUST. These panels present the design outcomes of these workshops. A paper presented in the conference focuses on the unique process of the project and the research outputs.
WORKING ON CITIES
AN EXPERIENCE FROM KUMASI GHANA

Ghana * atelier 2009

Action Planning Workshop
In this workshop, each group developed an action plan for KUMASI, which included goals, strategies, and activities. The groups then presented their plans to the class, and the class discussed and provided feedback.

Workshop Concept Project Design
This workshop involved the creation of concept designs for residential and commercial spaces in KUMASI. The designs were presented to the class, and feedback was given.

Study Tour AvBR
The class visited the AvBR studio, which is located in Kumasi. The studio is known for its sustainable design approach and its use of local materials.

Presentation
The final presentation was a culmination of the previous workshops. The groups presented their designs, and the class discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each design.

Study Trip IHS
This trip allowed students to visit the IHS residential development in KUMASI. The trip was an opportunity to see how sustainable design principles are being applied in practice.

Workshop IDP
In the final workshop, each group presented their designs and received feedback on their work. The class also discussed the overall vision for KUMASI and how the designs fit into this vision.
