

Erik R. Darden

Charlotte, NC
828.552.5386
dardenerik@gmail.com
erikdarden.com

Education

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Master in Urban Design (MUD) | August, 2026

Research focus: Spatial analysis, GIS-based decision-making, and equity-centered urban design

Lenoir-Rhyne University

Bachelor's in Community Health (B.S.)

Research focus: Relationships between the built environment, mobility, and health outcomes

Experience

Graduate Assistant

UNC Charlotte College of Health and Human Services

- Instructed a semester-long undergraduate course on social determinants of health, emphasizing links to the built environment
 - Organized and delivered a 2-hour GIS workshop (ArcGIS Pro & Online), training students in spatial data handling, joins, and map production
 - Communicated complex spatial and public health concepts to non-technical audiences
-

Key Skills

- Design Tools: ArcGIS Pro, Arcgis Online, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Davinci Resolve Studio, Rhinoceros 8.
 - Data & Research: Spatial modeling, data integration, public health metrics, mobility justice.
 - Engagement & Communication: Public presentation, graphic storytelling, community event facilitation, data visualization.
-

Studio Project | Master of Urban Design

Proposed Redesign of Charlotte 2nd Ward – Brooklyn Village

- Conducted ArcGIS Pro analysis comparing historic and current land use, identifying displacement patterns and gaps in public space and mobility access.
- Translated site strengths, constraints, and socio-historical research into an equity-driven redevelopment framework and conceptual master plan.
- Developed phasing strategy and visual narrative to support mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented placemaking.
- Presented to Charlotte urban design professionals for critique and discussion on restorative development.
- Received the 2025 Student Design Award from the UNC Charlotte School of Architecture.