



# THIS IS RESEARCH

## re:LOCATION

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In a collaboration between OCAD University at the Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development (TCCL&D), a second year OCAD U industrial design class taught by Ranee Lee was held offsite at the TCCL&D as a way to pilot an innovative participatory design framework. The course project tasked the students to design bespoke textile goods to be sewn and distributed by Regent Park Sewing Studio as part of their livelihood.

The Sewing Studio, a social enterprise incubation program within TCCL&D, consisted of a few immigrant women sewers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Iran, who along with the students in the same classroom learned and taught each other to create a truly participatory design experience. In this new learning framework, students went beyond the university's walls and into the community where they researched and designed with/for the community. Only by approaching community differently can we expect to achieve different results.

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