

URBAN DESIGN THEORY & STUDIO Course Syllabus for 2018-2019 Summer  
Haliç University, Department of Architecture  
Dr. Harun Ekinoglu, (Assist. Prof.)  
e-mail:harun.ekinoglu@gmail.com

### **Course Description:**

This is a seven weeks intense undergraduate summer must course for the architecture students which aims to give an understanding of the general concepts, theories & principles, including the historical scope and new trends, with a studio practice of a case urban design project. As part of the course, there is a studio work to develop an urban design proposal for a selected urban area. It will be an urban core area with several emergent social, spatial and economic problems in Istanbul.

The course deals with urban design as an interdisciplinary design field in the very intersection of architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, sociology, urban economics, and many other relevant disciplines in order to make cities coherent and healthy urban environments for the public safety and well-being. Through this scope briefly, the course aims to give *i)* a spatial, social, economic, and cultural understanding of urban areas *ii)* an orientation of developing site-specific methods for conducting spatial analyses and consequent urban design scenarios and proposals.

### **Course Objectives:**

To provide architecture students an understanding of the issues, potential problems, concepts, theories, and relationships of urban spaces and city functions within the built environment on how to;

1. Combine creative and analytic disciplines: bring together designers and analysts in an intellectual base
2. Combine design aspects with community development, infrastructure, finance, governance, relevant legal aspects
3. Place the human scale and human well-being at the heart of it all and encourage to discover and work with urban ecosystems in the cities
4. Provide and promote a focus to recognize the “interdisciplinary aspects of urban living” including:
  - a. Sociality: social cohesion through social healing and inclusion
  - b. Spatial Quality: how the spatial complexities are created, how they can be strengthened
  - c. Sustainability: how urban areas change & grow? How we can move from a transportation-led urban development focus to a social & economic sustainability-led & human-scaled urban development focus to eliminate the destructive effects of growth and sprawl in the cities through Case presentations from developed and developing countries’ cities.

### **Course Organization:**

The course is mainly formed of theoretical lectures on selected themes and studio work to develop an urban design project. Lectures consist of major urban theories, basic principles, and approaches to urban space. Each student is expected to write 2 pages of reaction papers (12 font, single space) on two out of six preferred topics that are thought in the theoretical lectures. Theoretical hours will be supported by educational media such as videos and documentaries on and lectures by the guest speakers specialized on the scope and methods of relevant topics.

**The studio work is divided into three stages:**

- a. Documentation and analysis of the selected sites individually and as in groups of 2 students*
- b. Development of a scenario, conceptual design proposal and design decisions for the case area*
- c. Design development of a selected part in 1/2500, 1/1000, 1/500 and 1/200 scales with consideration of early design scenario, concepts, and design decisions.*

**Weekly Schedule (slight changes might happen)**

**Week 1- Introduction** to urban design for architects: different scales of spatial intervention in the urban milieu & SITE VISIT in Istanbul

**Week 2- Lecture 1:** Basics of urban design: general theories, approach, and terminology  
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: Urbanized, 2011, directed by Gary Hustwitt & Individual and Group Presentations of the SITE ANALYSES

**Week 3- Lecture 2:** City Patterns, Morphology and Typology & STUDIO WORK AND CRITICS on early design decisions. **Pre-Jury 1**

**Week 4- Lecture 3:** Aesthetic and Composition & STUDIO WORK AND CRITICS

**Week 5- Lecture 4:** Landscape as an element of urban design: Squares, Parks, Pedestrian Areas, Waterfronts & STUDIO WORK AND CRITICS. **Pre-Jury 2.**

**Week 6- Lecture 5:** Masterplanning. Neighborhood and community empowerment and participation as a pivotal factor in urban design & STUDIO WORK AND CRITICS

**Week 7-** Final Jury

**Attendance**

Participation is a must for 80% of the total lectures + studio hours

**Grading**

10% **REACTION PAPERS**

10% **SITE INDIVIDUAL and GROUP ANALYSIS PRESENTATION**

30% **PRE-JURY I + PRE-JURY II**

10% **Active Participation on Schoology (e-learning system) and Twitter Using #HalicArchUrbanDesign**

40% **FINAL JURY**

**E-Learning: Create your account for the e-learning system**

All the students are required to register a student account at **schoology.com** and I will provide you all the course id to join the course. We will use **Schoology** to handle online discussions, assignments and course materials sharing.

**Online Discussion and Peer comments**

Each week, I will post a topic for online discussion, please provide your opinions towards a topic and response to 2 other classmates' responses with your idea.

**Social Learning**

Learning is not only happening in the classroom but everywhere in your life! So I also want all of you to share what you are constantly learning from the internet or your environment via Twitter. What you need to do is:

- 1) Sign up a twitter account
- 2) The more the better! Every week, share at least 1 urban design related post adding **#HalicArchUrbanDesign**
- 3) Each student takes his/her turn to curate the weekly content of **#HalicArchUrbanDesign**  
Please sign up the curate schedule here (google document)

how to curate?

It is up to you! Either you can do a .ppt or an infographic... and remember, you need to show what you posted to your classmates shortly at the beginning of the class!

## References

- Alexander, C., et al. *A New Theory of Urban Design*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987).
- Alexander, C., et al. *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977).
- Bacon, Edmund, N. *Design of Cities*, (London: Thames & Hudson, 1967).
- Gehl, J. *Life between Buildings: Using Public Space*, (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1987).
- Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, (New York: Random House, 1961).
- Kostof, Spiro, *The City Assembled: The Elements of Urban Form Through History*, (London: Thames & Hudson, 2005).
- Kostof, Spiro, *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings through History*, (London: Thames & Hudson, 1999).
- Lang, Jon. *Urban Design: A Typology of Procedures and Products*, (Amsterdam. Elsevier Architectural Press, 2005).
- Lynch, Kevin. *Good City Form*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984).
- Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of the City*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1960).
- Madanipour, A. *Design of Urban Space: An Inquiry into a Socio-spatial Process*, (Chichester: Wiley, 1996).
- Moughtin, C. *Urban Design: Street and Square*, (Oxford: Architectural Press, 1992).
- Rossi, A. *The Architecture of the City*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1982).
- Sitte, Camillo. *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*, (New York: Random House, 1965).
- Steiner, F. and Kent Butler, eds. *Planning and Urban Design Standards: Student Edition*, (New York: Wiley, 2006).
- Watson, D., Plattus, A. J, and Shibley, R. G. *Time-saver standards for urban design*. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003). 3