# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS / AUSTIN GRADUATE PROGRAM IN URBAN DESIGN

SOA

ARC 327C / 391C / CRP 386 / LAR 388 / URB 352 WMB 4.118 / T.TH: 12:30 - 2:00

TA: Noel Kuwabara nkuwabara@utmail.utexas.edu

PROF. DEAN ALMY dja3@utexas.edu
0 : GOL 4.126
0H : M W 10:00 - 12:00

## **URBAN DESIGN: HISTORY. THEORY. CRITICISM**



# INTRODUCTION:

A graduate seminar: focusing on the body of history and theory that informs contemporary issues in urban design. The course will examine the state of the contemporary discourse in urbanism, the historical trajectory of contemporary urban design theory, and its impact on design strategies as they pertain to the construction of the urban landscape. 20<sup>th</sup> Century case studies are introduced to contrast and compare design practice with the theoretical underpinnings of urban design discourse. While exploring the broader contexts of urban processes, the course also explores specific design strategies and devices established to negotiate competing social and spatial forces in the urban landscape.

The theoretical positions in architecture and urbanism that have emerged as a result of the expanding metropolitan landscape and the resultant geographical space of the open city have thrown urban design into a crisis. As architecture strives to regain its cultural relevance, the ongoing discourse of the city provides a constructed ground for its participation. Professionals who are engaged in the formation of urban environments are ill equipped to confront the realities of the constantly transforming infrastructure and socio-political change. While acknowledging that there is no longer a singular pervasive theory of the city, the intention of this course is to open up for discussion, possibilities, and to postulate strategies for enabling an urban architecture to operate synthetically within this realm. We will accomplish this through an extensive set of readings that discuss the key issues arising throughout 20th century urban design theory and practice, and by examining the transformation to the present urban situation.

This course is required for students enrolled in The Graduate Program in Urban Design.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The class will be structured around lectures, tests, and discussions. Students will be expected to be able to make connections between the ideas presented in the lectures and readings, and their impact on an increasingly urbanizing world, and the ways in which design can play a meditative role in the construction of the urban environment.

In particular, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the ways urban design theory and practice has shaped the contemporary landscape over time.
- Examine the competing paradigms and discourses informing contemporary urban design.
- Develop a critical understanding of the tactical initiatives being implemented in contemporary urbanism and their antecedents.
- Explore design strategies based on an understanding of the complexity of urban landscape structure.
- Develop an urban "vocabulary" in order to enable students to establish an agenda for urban design practice.

In pedagogical terms, the ultimate objective is to expand our knowledge and to intensify one's critical abilities in evaluating and discussing design tactics for an urban architecture grounded in the history of disciplinary knowledge.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERION/ADDRESSED:

N.A. (elective course)

## TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Reading skills (30%); Writing skills (20%); Acquiring knowledge of the History and Theories of Urban Design and their interpretation (50%)

## **LECTURES / TESTS:**

Lectures will be given regularly during the semester to introduce some background to the readings. Lectures shall be presented as a supplement to the readings and are not intended to mimic the content of the readings. There will be three tests given during the semester they will be open notes. Each test will be worth twenty five percent of your final grade. An additional take home final will be worth twenty percent

# **READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be required articles provided in a course pack for the course. There are assigned readings each week. Please be prepared to discuss the readings. Readings are intended to cover a wide range of issues, and will be the base from which the direction of the research within the seminar shall proceed. You will be called on during class discussions.

# REQUIRED TEXTS: Available at UT Coop

Camillo Sitte: The Birth of Modern City Planning, Collins, C Hyperion, 1980 (1889) Garden Cities of To-Morrow, Howard, Ebenezer MIT Press, 1965 (1902) The Architecture of the City, Rossi, Aldo MIT Press, 1984 (1962) Collage City, Rowe, Colin, Koetter, Fred MIT Press, 1978 Delirious New York, Koolhaas, Rem Monicelli Press, 1994 (1978) Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space, Gehl, Jan Copenhagen, 2003 (1987) The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, Mumford, Eric MIT Press, 2000 The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jacobs, J. Random House, (1963)

Course Pack: Selected Readings in Urbanism ( DIGITAL ON CANVAS ) Various Books and Journals

# **OTHER IMPORTANT TEXTS:**

There are innumerable texts: this is just a beginning:

The Five Bases of the General Theory of Urbanization, Cerda, Idelfonse Electa 1999 (1860) Town Planning in Practice, Unwin, Raymond Princeton 1994 (1909) New Towns for Old, John Nolan U. Mass 2005(1927) The City of Tomorrow and its Planning, Le Corbusier Architectural Press, 1987 (1924) The Image of the City, Kevin Lynch MIT Press, 1960 The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jacobs, Jane Vintage Books, 1989 (1961) The Heart of Our Cities, Gruen, Victor Simon and Schuster, 1964 Community and Privacy, Chermayeff, S., Alexander, C., Anchor Books, 1963 Team 10 Primer, Smithson, Allison MIT Press, 1968 The History of the City, Benevolo, Leonardo MIT Press, 1980 Making a Middle Landscape, Rowe, Peter MIT Press, 1991 Suburban Nation, Duany, Andres, et.al. North Point press, 2000 Green Urbanism, Beatley, Timothy, Island Press, 2000 The Landscape Urbanism Reader, Waldheim, Charles, ed. Princeton Press, 2006 C14 - On Landscape Urbanism, Almy, Dean, ed. Center for American Architecture, 2007 Urban Reports, Christiaanse, Kees, et.al. ETH, Zurich, 2009 Grand Urban Rules, Lehnerer, Alex Publishers, 2009 Wiley, 2009 Retrofitting Suburbia, Dunham-Jones, E., Williamson, June, Charter of the New Urbanism, Talen, E., Ed., **CNU 2013** 

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be expected to undertake extensive readings from the current and historical discourse in urbanism and be prepared to engage in discussions around each weekly topic. While you will not be tested on all the readings, they are for your use as a record of many of the seminal ideas in urbanism. Readings with a dot marked next to them are required and you may be tested on the material.

#### **GRADING:**

Your work will be evaluated on its rigor and evolution over the semester. Late assignments or tests will be dropped a letter grade for each class period missed, unless an appropriate excuse (religious holiday, medical) is accepted by the instructor.

# GRADE EVALUATIONS :

## 1 : Attendance:

Readings should be completed on the dates assigned by the instructor and are to be discussed and/or presented in class by each student. Your participation during discussions is an important part of the class. Preparation for and participation in the discussion of the readings is fundamental to the success of the course. Discussions are for reflection and debate on the material. It is not my role to lecture you on the readings, but merely to facilitate the discussions. I will call on you and take attendance.

Attendance, readings and discussions shall be worth 5 percent of the course grade.

## 2 : Tests:

There will be four tests given throughout the semester. They will cover topics from both the readings, and the lectures. They will comprise a total of 95 per cent of the course grade. Lecture material will be posted online and the tests will have diagrams and drawings to help stimulate your sense of reason. The questions will primarily be in short answer format.

Each of the three tests will be worth 25 percent of the course grade.

The final test will be a take home test. It will be distributed on the last day of class and due during the course's scheduled final exam period. It will be worth **20** percent of the course.

You are required to bring blue test booklets to class in order to record your answers to the tests. You must also turn in the tests along with your answer booklet. Please make sure to write legibly and to put your name on all your work.

• Due dates for the all tests and course assignments are listed on the course syllabus.

#### **GRADING SCALE:**

This course will use the universities Plus/Minus system. Below is the conversion table from points to a numeric grade that will be used to determine your grade in this course:

A	4.0 - 3.9	100-94 Points
Α-	3.8 - 3.5	93-90 Points
B+	3.4 - 3.2	89-84 Points
В	3.1 - 2.9	83-78 Points
B-	2.8 - 2.5	77-70 Points
(+	2.4 - 2.2	69-65 Points
C	2.1 - 1.9	64-62 Points
C-	1.8 - 1.5	61-58 Points
D+	1.4 - 1.2	57-55 Points
D	1.1 - 0.9	54-52 Points
D-	0.8 - 0.7	51-50 Points
		lowest passing grade
E	0.0	academic failure
		No credit earned

## A / A-: excellent work

Student surpasses expectations. Performance on tests and in discussions demonstrates that student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is presented in class or texts. Tests are complete on all levels: answers are thoroughly researched, grammatically correct, properly argued and well presented. Work demonstrates potential for excellence.

## B+ / B-: good work

Test answers are thorough, well researched, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student demonstrates an understanding of ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required positions.

## C+ / C-: required work

Test scores and attendance meet the minimum requirements. Answers lack full understanding of the material. Essays questions are not pursued with dedication or rigor. Overall performance is incomplete in one or more areas.

# D+ / D-: poor work

Performance on tests is incomplete. Basic understanding of material including: scholarship, research and discussions are not level appropriate.

#### F: unacceptable work

Mastery of course objectives is not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will also be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.

# X: (excused incomplete)

Can be given only for legitimate reasons of illness or family emergency. Simply not completing work on time is not an adequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans' offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date.

ALL GRADES ARE SUBJECT TO DEDUCTIONS for absences, late work and late arrivals.

#### **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:**

To make class time as valuable as possible, I propose the following principles to create a rigorous and respectful learning environment:

Every student (and the instructor) has the right to learn as well as the responsibility not to deprive others of their right to learn.

Every student (and the instructor) is accountable for his or her actions.

Every student (and the instructor) will communicate with respect and civility in discussions.

Every student (and the instructor) will behave with professionalism and integrity.

Every student (and the instructor) will remember that learning includes laughter and having fun, but it can also be difficult, especially with an interdisciplinary group. Please practice patience with your community of learners.

Conversations around the topics in this course will at times become political. Every student (and the instructor) must be tolerant of others viewpoints.

## IN GENERAL:

Note: The course syllabus and outline is a guideline and is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances during the semester.

Last day of the official add/drop period. (September 05)
Last day to drop a class without a possible academic penalty. (September 15)

In this class I use the CANVAS UT online system — a web-based course management system with password-protected access at http://courses.utexas.edu to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments. You can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

# RESOURCES FOR LEARNING & LIFE AT UT AUSTIN:

The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.

The UT Learning Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/ Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/

Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/

Career Exploration Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/ Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/

#### ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken. Participation is expected. Students with three (3) unexcused absences may be dropped from the course without further notice. The minimum penalty for more than three unexcused absences is a full letter drop in your final grade for the course. Please contact the instructor prior to class if you expect to be late or miss class.

A student who is absent from a class for the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice has been given in advance of the days to be missed. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE:**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

#### **DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd

# **USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS:**

E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php

#### **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

## BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL):

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <a href="http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal">http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal</a>

# **EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY:**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made.

# PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES REGARDING EVACUATION:

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.

If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office gives you instructions

# Q DROP POLICY:

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:

"Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

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09.27

Readings:

ARC 327C / 391C / CRP 386 / LAR 388 / URB 352 WMB 4.118 / T .TH : 12:30 - 2:00 F 17

Prof. Almy dja3@utexas.edu

TA: Valentina Scalia Virla vscalia@utexas.edu

Van Den Heuvel, D, The Diagrams of Team 10 •

Mumford, E, The Emergence of Mat or Field Buildings

Mumford, E., in The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, From the "Heart of the City" to the End of CIAM •

Mumford, E., in Urban Design, The Emergence of Urban Design in the Breakup of CIAM •

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	:	nedule	Course Sch
Course Structure and Organiza	Introduction:	08.30	W <sub>1</sub>
Urban Field Dynamics I : The Development of the Modern	Topic:	09.04	W <sub>2</sub>
Stieber, Nancy, Controlling Urban Aest  Sitte, Camillo, City Planning According to Artistic Printer Relationship between Buildings, Monuments and Public Scantillo, City Planning According to Artistic Printer Enclosed Character of the Public States of To-Morrow, The Town-Country March Ebenezer, Garden Cities of To-Morrow, Social Cities o	Readings:	09.06	
Cerda, Idelfonse <u>, The Five Bases of the General Theory of Urbaniz</u> Unwin, Raymond, <u>Town Planning in Pr</u> Stein, Clarence, <u>Toward New Towns for An</u> John Nolan, <u>New Ideas in the Planning of Cities, Towns and Vi</u>	Reference:		
Urban Field Dynamics II: The Codification of Modern Plan	Topic:	09.11	<b>W</b> 3
Almy, D., Aesthetics and Ideology in the Construction of the C Mumford, E., in <u>The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, CIAM, 1928-19</u>	Readings:	09.13	
Le Corbusier, The City of Tomorrow and its Pla	Reference:		
Urban Field Dynamics III : The Codification of Modern Plan	Topic:	09.18	W4
Mumford,E., in The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, The Functional City, 1931-1 Conrads, U, CIAM: Charter of Athens: Ten	Readings:	09.20	
Le Corbusier, <u>The Radier</u> Frampton, K, The Rise and Fall of the Radiant City: Le Corbusier 1928 –	Reference:		
Urban Field Dynamics IV : Team 10 and the Heart of the	Topic:	09.25	<b>W</b> 5

		Reference:	Smithson, A, Team 10 Primer Gruen, Victor, The Heart of Our Cities Alexander, C., and Chermayeff, S., Community and Privacy
W۵			
	10.02	TI	Exam: The Modern City
	10.04	<b>Topic:</b> Readings:	Urban Field Dynamics V: The City as Form and Structure Rowe, C., Collage City, Crisis of the Object: Predicament of Texture • Rowe, C., Collage City, Collage City and the Reconquest of Time • Hurtt, S., Cornell Journal of Architecture, Vol. 2, Conjectures on Urban Form •
		Reference:	Copper, W., Cornell Journal of Architecture, Vol. 2, The Figure/Grounds
W <sub>7</sub>	10.09	Topic:	<b>Urban Field Dynamics VI: Constructing Urban Densities</b>
		Readings:	Gehl, J, <u>Life Between buildings</u> , Life Between Buildings • Gehl, J, <u>Life Between buildings</u> , To Assemble or To Disperse • Jacobs, J, The Death and Life of Great American Cities • Beatley, Timothy, <u>Green Urbanism</u> , Part II - Land Use and Communit
		Reference:	Chermayeff, S., Alexander, C., <u>Community and Privacy</u> Jacobs, J, <u>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</u> Kevin Lynch, <u>The Image of the City</u> ,
	10.11	Topic:	Typology and Method
		Readings: Reference:	Rossi, A, <u>The Architecture of the City</u> , Urban Artifacts and a Theory of the City • Rossi, A, <u>The Architecture of the City</u> , Primary Elements and the Concept of Area • Moneo, R, On Typology • Krier, L, The Only Path for Architecture • Krier, L, et. al., Rational Architecture Rationnelle
			Colquhuon, A, Typology and Design Method Anthony Vidler: The Third Typology
W <sub>8</sub>	10.16	Topic:	New? Urbanism
	10.18	Readings:	Talen, E., Ed., <u>Charter of the New Urbanism</u> , CNU 2013  Bressi, T, Planning the American Dream •  Duany, A, What is Sprawl and Why? •  Duany, A, The Victims of Sprawl •  Dunham-Jones, E., New Urbanism as a Counter-project to Post-Industrialism  Robbins, M, New Urbanism  Dunham-Jones, E., 75 Percent
		Reference:	Duany, A., et.al.: <u>Suburban Nation</u> Dunham-Jones, E., Williamson, June, <u>Retrofitting Suburbia</u> Katz, P, <u>The New Urbanism</u>

W,	10.23	Topic:	Regulatory Frameworks and Urban Processes
	10.25	Film(s):	Sprawling from Grace
		Readings:	Calthorpe, P, The Next American Metropolis • Rowe, P, Changing Attitudes Soja, E, Sprawl is no longer what it used to be • Betsky, E, Making Ourselves at Home in Sprawl
$\mathbf{W}_{10}$			beisky, E, muking outselves at notile in spiawi
	10.30	<b>T2</b>	Exam: The Post-Modern City
	11.01	Topic:	The Culture of Congestion
		Readings:	Koolhaas, R, Life in the Metropolis or The Culture of Congestion
			Lucan, J, The Architect of Modern Life • Cohen, Jean-Louis, The Rational Rebel, or the Urban Agenda of OMA Dagenhart, R., Urban Architectural Theory and the Contemporary City • Koolhaas, R, OMA – Urban Operations
		Reference:	Koolhaas, R., <u>Delirious New York</u> Leupen, B, Architecture B, The Search for New Compositional Methods • Smets, M, Grid, Casco, Clearing, Montage •
<b>W</b> 11	11.06	Topic:	The City as Program
	11.08		NO CIASS_TXA Presentation
		Readings:	Schneider, J., A Discussion of the Individual in the City as Landscape Ellin, N., Slash/City • Sennett, R, The Public Domain Tschumi, B., Space and Events •
		Reference:	Tschumi, Bernard, Betsky, A., et al., <u>Reading MVRDV</u>
$\mathbf{W}_{12}$	11.13	Topic:	Landscape Urbanism
	11.15	Т3	Exam: The Post-Structural City
		Readings:	Koolhaas, R., Whatever Happened to Urbanism • Waldheim, C., Landscape As Urbanism • Corner, J., Terra Fluxus •
			Shane, G., Stalking Detroit, The Emergence of Landscape Urbanism •  Lerup, L., Stim and Dross: Rethinking the Metropolis •  Frampton, K, "Toward an Urban Landscape •

Waldheim, C, The Landscape Urbanism Reader Almy, D., On Landscape Urbanism

Reference:

<b>W</b> <sub>13</sub>	11.20	Topic:	Re:constructing the Urban Surface
	11.22		Thanksgiving: No Class
		Readings: Weller,	Wall, A., Programming the Urban Surface • Allen, S., Mat Urbanism, The Thick 2D • Lee, M., The Dutch Savannah: Approaches to Topological landscape Angelil, M., Klingman, A., Hybrid Morphologies: Infrastructure, Architecture, Landscape R., Toward an Art of Infrastructure in the Theory and Practice of Contemporary Landscape Architecture Belanger, P, Synthetic Surfaces
		Reference:	Wall, A, Victor Gruen: From Urban Shop to New City
$\mathbf{W}_{14}$	11.27	Topic:	Infrastructure and Mobility Systems for the Contemporary City
		Readings:	Duany, A., et.al., The American Transportation Mess • Tatom, J, Urban Highways and the Reluctant Public Realm • Mossop, E, Landscapes of Infrastructure Shane, G., The Street in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Ellis, W, The Spatial Structure of Streets
		Reference:	Richards, B., <u>Future Transport in Cities</u> Banham, R., <u>LA: The Four Ecologies</u> Houben, F, A Room with a View / Notes from the Project
	11.29	Film(s):	Bogatá: Building a Sustainable City Adaptive Reuse in the Netherlands
$\mathbf{W}_{15}$	12.03	Topic:	Toward an Ecological Future
	12.05		
		Readings:	Waldheim, Charles, Topos 71, On Landscape, Ecology and other Modifiers to Urbanism •  Mostafavi, Mohsen, Topos 71, Why Ecological Urbanism? Why Now? •  Sorkin, Michael, <u>All Over the Map</u> , Eutopia Now! •  McHarg, Design With Nature, The Metropolitan Region and The City: Process & Form •  Spirn, Anne Whiston, Ecological Urbanism: A Framework for the Design of Resilient Cities •  Beatley, T., Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning  Taylor, Marilyn, <u>Urban Design</u> , Urban Design Looking Forward •
		Reference:	Mostafavi, Mohsen, <u>Ecological Urbanism</u> Foster, Sir Norman, <u>Cities for a Small Planet</u> Topos 71, "Landscape Urbanism" Copenhagen Agenda for Sustainable Cities: 10 Principles for Sustainable City Governance Marshall, Richard, Urban Design, The Elusiveness of Urban Design

Take Home Test: Due @ scheduled final exam period

**T4**