

SYLLABUS REVISED March 8, 2015

Columbia University: Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

ASIAN URBANISM AND PUBLIC SPACE NOW

Architecture A6835 Section 001, Spring 2015

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Office Hours: Mondays from 1~2 pm, or by appointment

INTRODUCTION

In this seminar urbanism in Asia is examined through the lens of public spaces and the public realm. While public space is important everywhere, it is more so in densely populated Asian cities, and critical in low-income neighborhoods and informal settlements there. While intensity and scale of urban growth in Asia is one of the most exciting developments in recent history, it is also resulting in erosion and privatization of public spaces, and the consequences thereof.

Three cities that are the focus of the seminar: Tokyo, Shanghai and Mumbai, are among the largest cities in the world. The concepts of public space in them are different in form and content than in Western cities, and from each other. All three cities are the engines of economic growth and socio-cultural innovation for their countries. While Tokyo is currently dealing with the stagnant economy and aging population, the skyline of Shanghai and Mumbai are rising with private iconic buildings amid large areas that are still struggling to come out of poverty. The urban public realm is the most articulate expression of politics, power, money and class that at specific moments in the history have defined these cities. Majority of people in Asia live as squatters and their number is expected to double by 2050. Thus Asian cities are also the arenas where the Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability will be either achieved or missed. The availability and quality of public spaces will contribute greatly to this process.

The course will consider the issues and design of micro-level neighborhood public spaces as well as monumental and iconic public spaces, such as the Bund in Shanghai, Yoyogi Koen in Tokyo, and Marine Drive in Mumbai. We will learn about what works and what does not in terms of urbanism and public spaces within the broad context of Asian lifestyles and rising expectations. The urban form, history, physical and socio-economic infrastructure in each metropolis will be critically analyzed with relation to the public realm. Ways in which these spaces influence their urban context, governance, environmental sustainability and social equity will also be studied and compared to other world cities.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan 26: Introduction: Role of public space in Asian cities

- Reading Response 1: World Charter of Right to the City+ Rebel Cities Ch 1
- Reading Response 2: World Charter of Right to the City+ Rebel Cities Ch 3

(The Reading Response system for this Seminar is described further below in this document)

World Charter of Right to the City: International Alliance of Inhabitants, 2005. pdf available at www.china-europa-forum.net as well as some other web sites.

David, Harvey: Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution, Verso, UK, 2012. This wonderful book is also available as a free pdf on the Web.

Feb 2: No class (Teacher in Rio with UD students- class rescheduled for May 5th double session)

Term project topic (1 page) + team names to be emailed to Geeta and TA.

Feb 9: Issues of urbanization in Japan

- ReadingsResponse1: Kerr, Dogs and Demons: Tales from the Dark Side of Japan, 2001,Ch 1,4
- Readings Response2: Kerr, Dogs and Demons: Tales from the Dark Side of Japan, 2001,Ch1,6

Kerr, Alex. Dogs and Demons: Tales from the Dark Side of Japan. Hill and Wang, 2001.

Feb 16: Public Spaces in Tokyo

- Reading 1: Japan Public Spaces (Article posted on Courseworks)

Cybriwsky, Roman. Changing patterns of urban public space: Observations and assessments from the Tokyo and New York metropolitan areas. (article posted on Courseworks)

- Reading 2: How Uber's autonomous cars will destroy 10 million jobs and reshape the economy by 2025.

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/01/27/how-ubers-autonomous-cars-will-destroy-10-million-jobs-and-reshape-the-economy-by-2025-lyft-google-zack-kanter/>

Feb 23: Public Spaces in Tokyo

Reading 1: Sassen, Saskia. The Public Street (Essay posted on Courseworks)

Reading 2: Geeta Mehta. Smartness of User Generated Cities. A+U Magazine November 2014 (Essay posted on Courseworks)

March 2: Special Lecture by Sheela Patel

- Readings Response 1: One article of your choice from "Urban Age India Newspaper". www.urban-age.net/03_conferences/conf_mumbai

- Readings Response 2: One section of your choice from the McKinsey Report: Indian Urbanization, 2012

March 9: Issues of urbanization in Mumbai

- Reading Response 1: Roy, A. (2009) "Why India Cannot Plan Its Cities: Informality, Insurgency and the Idiom of Urbanization". Planning Theory. 8. PP. 76-87. Full pdf can be downloaded from <http://plt.sagepub.com>

- Reading 2: Mehta, Urban Equity in the 21st Century (Chapter from City Connect, posted on Courseworks) from *Mehta, Kunihiro (eds.) City Connect: Issues of Sustainability and Equity in the 21st Century (to be published by Kokushikan University Press)*

March 16: Spring Break, no class

March 23: Public Spaces in Mumbai

- Reading 1: How slums can save the planet, Brand (Essay posted on Courseworks)

- Reading 2: P2P Urbanism, Chapter 1,5. Can be downloaded from
<http://zeta.math.utsa.edu/~yxk833/P2PURBANISM.pdf>

*Salingaros, Nikos. "P2P Urbanism". Draft Version 3.0 (to be published by Umbrau-Verlag, Solingen, Germany). Free download from
<http://zeta.math.utsa.edu/~yxk833/P2PURBANISM.pdf>*

March 30: Public Spaces in Mumbai

Reading 1- New China Cities: Shoddy Homes, Broken Hope (short article from NYTimes)

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/world/asia/new-china-cities-shoddy-homes-broken-hope.html?_r=0

Reading 2- Downtown is for People (Jacobs; Fortune Classic, 1958)(short article reprint)

<http://features.blogs.fortune.cnn.com/2011/09/18/downtown-is-for-people-fortune-classic-1958/>

Listening 1: Amanda Burden, former Commissioner of NYC on TED

http://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_burden_how_public_spaces_make_cities_work#t-164268

April 6: Group presentations: Midterm review

- upload as "Shanghai_2005"

April 13: Issues of urbanization in Shanghai: Guest Lecture by Kate Dunham

- Reading Response 1 and 2:

a. NYC Zoning Tools for public spaces, available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/zone/zh_ztools. Please look at the tools for POPS, sidewalks, and waterfront.

b. Form Based Codes at <http://formbasedcodes.org/what-are-form-based-codes>

April 20: Public Spaces in Shanghai

- Reading 1: The Concrete Dragon, Ch 1,2
- Reading 2: The Concrete Dragon, Ch 1,3

April 27: Case Studies in Shanghai & final discussion in class

May 4: Final Presentations

ADDITIONAL READINGS

1. Salingaros, Nikos. P2P Urbanism, free download from <http://zeta.math.utsa.edu/~yxk833/P2PURBANISM.pdf>
2. Bharne, Vinayak Ed. The Emerging Asian City: Concomitant Urbanities and Urbanisms. Routledge, 2012.
3. Brook, Daniel. A History of Future Cities. Norton, New York. 2013
4. HengChye Kiang & Low Boon Liang (Editors) On Asian Streets and Public Space, 2010
5. Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute. 2010, 2009, 2008.
6. Campanella, Thomas J. The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World. Princeton Architectural Press, NY 2008.
7. The Millennium Project: A Home in the City. Task Force Report on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers. Earthscan, 2005.

8. Jenks, M. & Burgess, Compact Cities: Sustainable Urban Forms for Developing Countries, London, Spon Press, 2000.
9. Laquian, Aprodicio, with VinodTiwari and Lisa M. Hanley (eds) Inclusive City: Infrastructure and public services for the urban poor in Asia. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.
10. Nishi Kazuo and Hozumi Kazuo. What Is Japanese Architecture? Kodansha America, Inc. 2012.
11. Sorensen, Andre: The Making of Urban Japan. Routledge Press, New York. 2002.
12. Waley, P. Moving the Margins of Tokyo, article from Urban Studies (2002)
13. Wujun Liu and Xiang Huang. Shanghai Urban Planning (Shanghai Series). Thomson Press. 2007.
14. Mehta, Geeta and MacDonald Deanna. New Japan Architecture: Recent Works by the World's Leading Architects. Foreword by Cesar Pelli and Fumihiko Maki. Tuttle Publishing 2011.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST (Please share with class other sites you may know)

- <http://www.pps.org>
- [Urban Age Readings: http://www.urban-age.net/publications/archive/](http://www.urban-age.net/publications/archive/)
- <http://www.citiesalliance.org/index.html>
- <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp2008/index.htm> (Statistics and projections on cities around the world updated in 2009)
- www.ted.com (Well delivered 5~15 minute talks on many subjects including urbanism by people at the forefront)
- [Street Design Guidelines for Delhi: http://www.slideshare.net/onlyromi/street-design-guidelines-feb2011ppt](http://www.slideshare.net/onlyromi/street-design-guidelines-feb2011ppt)
- [A comprehensive document about Boston's "Complete Street" program: http://www.bostoncompletestreets.org/about.php](http://www.bostoncompletestreets.org/about.php)
- http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMzE1NTA1MTQ4.html

- A survey of Indian urbanization and economy, 2013. http://mpr.ub.uni-muenchen.de/45537/1/MPRA_paper_45537.pdf
- Article re conventional zoning vs. form based code (n.d.) from the Cecil Group: <http://www.cecilgroup.com/news/article-conventional-zoning-vs-form-based-code/>
- Stephens, J (2010, Sept 30). Form Based codes gain popularity but cannot cure all. <http://www.cp-dr.com/node/2770>

- An Urban Think Tank Film re Mumbai's Slums: <http://vimeo.com/81485166>

- Amanda Burdun on TED:
http://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_burden_how_public_spaces_make_cities_work?language=en

http://www.ted.com/talks/james_howard_kunstler_dissects_suburbia?language=en#t-428104

EVALUATIONS

Term project + presentation: 60% of the grade

READING RESPONSE

Each student is required to write and submit approximately one page of critical comments on the readings assigned for each class. These are your own ideas or response to the reading, and NOT a summary. You may critique the assigned reading, compare it with other literature on the subject, add your own ideas to the topic, or bring up issues that are not clear or relevant. A good way to think about this is to have an opinion before you start reading an article or a book, and then see if the reading confirms or refutes what you thought before reading it. All comments will be read, but not individually graded. Questions and issues raised by students about these readings will form the basis of class discussions. This is your chance to show your understanding and knowledge of the subject, and have some fun testing out your ideas.

If your last name begins with A~N, you are to do “Reading 1”

If your last name begins with M~Z, you are to do “Reading 2”

Reading responses are to be posted on the Courseworks to share them with other students, and also handed over in class in hard copy.

TERM PROJECT AND PRESENTATION

Students are to pair up in teams and select a public space/place some where in Asia that you may be familiar with: from experience, or from television, movies or fiction. You will then proceed to understand and analyze its role in the life of the city in terms of its urban context, design, history, regular and event usage, financial aspects, management, and environmental impact. Comparing this space to other spaces in Asia, USA, or elsewhere is one good way to enhance and show your understanding of the space. Teams will then propose design strategies and interventions to re-imagine the civic role (real or fictional) that the selected space can perform for various segments of the urban population and the city. These strategies and interventions will then be presented to the class in the form of drawings, photographs and narratives in a Power Point.