

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University
Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design Program

Fall 2014

Urban Design Seminar ARCHA6830
Avery Hall 115, Tuesdays 9am-11am

Infrastructure, Resilience, and Public Space

Morana M. Stipisic and S. Bry Sarté

Why focus on cities? Why now? What are the opportunities to redefine and improve urban livability informed by integrated infrastructure? How can our evolving cities better work with energy, water and ecological systems and what are the metrics to track their success? How can we lower carbon levels while stimulating densification? These and similar questions are analyzed within this seminar. We look into the complexity and intertwined nature of infrastructural systems, political structures and public space, and elaborate on their causal relationship.

The first part of the seminar is organized as an overview of current terminology, issues and strategies - mainly through concrete examples of best practices and successful case studies from both local and international contexts. The second part of the seminar will allow participants an opportunity to test their skills and investigate metrics and strategies across scales. Teams of students will propose site-specific solutions responsive to the changing global environment. We will work together aiming to conclude with concrete design proposals that could be viably implemented.

This seminar is intended to strengthen participants' ability to simultaneously view the 'big picture' while finding appropriate contributions at the 'fine grain'. Exploration of design approaches, methods and tools are structured to deepen participants' understanding of the interconnected workings of resilient systems. The goal of the seminar is to enable participants to gain critical skills for designing healthy urban transformation at this critical moment in time.