

Urban Preconfigurations: NY/Global

CourseNo: ARCHA6832_001_2014_3

Meeting Time: R 11:00A-01:00P **Meeting Location:** [AVERY HALL 115](#)

Instructor: Michael Conard

INTRODUCTION

The accelerated rate of unprecedented urban change fueled by the proliferation of information technologies and service industries challenges traditional and theoretical urban design paradigms, pedagogies and practices. Conventional practice and normative conceptions of fabric are challenged in the context of variant conditions such as sprawl, generic landscapes, informal settlements, preservation districts, marginalized centers, disused industrial zones and the environmental questions of climate change, obesity and peak oil. Metaphors for chaos, complexity, bio-urbanism, junk space, fluidity, transparency and dynamism have flourished. Yet the ability of these constructs to engage the drivers of urban form and urban policy change remain unclear and suspect. The seminar introduces students to the logic of western market driven development, to the means and methods in which design in the contemporary city is conceived, created and regulated, and to historical and contemporary land-use controls. Part I of the seminar includes weekly lectures by the instructor and/or invited guests and review of required readings. Discussions focus initially on New York City and its development through land use controls and market forces then expand to explore the contemporary evolutions of other global cities. Part II of the seminar is organized around student presentations of global case studies that analyze formal urban conditions and develop schematic strategic design responses.

PART I

9/4 Wk 1: Introduction: The American City, Modernity and the Logic of Capitalist Development.

Film 1: "The City", Film 2: "The City of Tomorrow (Intro and 1:39:40),

Text:

1. Jameson, Fredric. *Future City*.
2. Molella, Arthur P. *Inventing the History of Invention*.

9/11 Wk 2: Site Probe: Hell's Kitchen South: The 20th and 21st Century Cities Collide

Text: Conard, Michael, et al. *Hell's Kitchen South, Developing Strategies*.

New York: DTPS, 2002, pp. 5-43.

9/18 Wk 3: Capitalism, Gentrification and the Logic of Uneven Development. The New York Story.

Video: The Story of Stuff.

Texts: Smith, Friedman.

9/25 Wk 4: Emerging Trends? 1: Food and the Post Caloric American Society.

Kubi Ackerman, The Urban Design Lab @ The Earth Institute

10/2 Wk 5: Designing in a Complex World. Claire Hartten, Design Researcher, London/NYC

Text: 1. Thackara, J. *In the Bubble*. Chapters 1, 10.

2. Steele, Carolyn. *Hungry City*. How Food Shapes Our Lives.
ix-xiii, 1-52.

10/9 Wk 6: Emerging Trends? 2: India and the Post-Colonial Country.

Viren Brahmbhatt. Architect: Mumbai/New York.

10/16 Wk 7: Emerging Trends? 3: China and the State Capitalist City.

Barak Pliskin et al. Architects: New York-China.

10/23 Wk 8: Mid-Review Week: Group Provocation #1: Complexity and Contradiction in Urban Design

Text: Venturi, Robert. *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*. MOMA, NYC. 2002.

10/30 Wk 9: Phase Two Introduction and Desk Crits

11/6 Wk 10: Phase Two Desk Crits

11/13 Wk 11: Preliminary Presentation of Case Study Strategy Pin Up

11/20 Wk 12: Phase Two Desk Crits

11/27 Wk 13: Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class

12/4 Wk 14: Final Review Week: No Class

12/11 Wk 15: Final Seminar Presentation Hard Copy and Digital Copy of Project Due

12/17 Wk 16: Grades Due Wednesday

Please See Files and Resources For:

1. Examples of Final Projects
2. FALL 2013 Seminar Reader