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

Network City: The Extreme City and the Megalopolis

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Avery 114, Friday 11-1

“Cities are communications systems.” - Ronald Abler

This course fulfills the Urban Society and Modern M.Arch distributional requirement.

Network City explores how urban areas have developed as ecosystems of competing networks since the late nineteenth century.

Networks of capital, transportation infrastructures, and telecommunications systems centralize cities while dispersing them into larger posturban fields such as the Northeastern seaboard or Southern California. Linked together through networks, today such cities form the core of global capital, producing the geography of flows that structures economies and societies today.

Networks, infrastructures, and property values are the products of historical development. To this end, the first half of the course surveys the development of urbanization since the emergence of the modern network city in the late nineteenth century while the second half focuses on conditions in contemporary urbanism.

A fundamental thesis of the course is that buildings too, function as networks. We will consider the demands of cities and economies together with technological and social networks on program, envelope, and plan, particularly in the office building, the site of consumption, and the individual dwelling unit. In addition we will look at the fraught relationship between signature architecture (the so-called Bilbao-effect) and the post-Fordist city.

Throughout the course, we will explore the growth of both city and suburbia (and more recently postsuburbia and exurbia) not as separate and opposed phenomena but rather as intrinsically related. Although the material in the course is applicable globally, our focus will be on the development of the American city, in particular, New York.

Each class will juxtapose classic readings by sociologists, urban planners, and architects with more contemporary material.

This course is offered by the Network Architecture Lab
(<http://networkarchitecturelab.org>).

Project

The term project will be **one chapter within a research book**. In accordance with the Network Architecture Lab's research work for the Museum of Modern Art's Uneven Growth show, this year each student should address the problem of uneven growth in the Northeastern Megalopolis that stretches from Boston to Washington DC (BOSWASH) from the period between 1960 and 2013. Students will be asked to identify architectural or urban projects that are significant to a history of uneven growth in the city, either in terms of causing it or addressing it.

Examples of student work will be posted on the Network Architecture Lab Web site.

Material should not be formulated into a traditional research paper, but rather assembled as a dossier of information that tells a story through the designed and composed sequence of images and texts lead by a narrative you have written yourself.

Design is integral to the term project. All work is to be carefully proofread and fact checked.

Citations are required, using the Chicago humanities footnote method.

Plagiarism of any sort will result in immediate failure.

Chapter templates will be available on the class server.

A Brief Bibliography of Books regarding Design and Presentation

Allen Hurlburt, *The Grid: A Modular System for the Design and Production of Newspapers, Magazines, and Books* (New York: Van Norstand Reinhold, 1978).

Enric Jardí, *Twenty-Tips on Typography* (Barcelona: ACTAR, 2007).

Josef Muller-Brockmann, *Grid Systems in Graphic Design* (Zurich: Niggli, 2001)

Tomato, *Bareback: A Tomato Project* (Corte Madera, CA: Gingko Press, 1999).

* denotes classic reading that demands special attention.

1 Introduction: Towards Network City

1.24

2 The First Network Cities

1.31 * Ronald F. Abler “What Makes Cities Important,” *Bell Telephone Magazine*, March/April. (1970).

Robert M. Fogelson, “The Business District: Downtown in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950*, (New Haven: Yale, 2001), 9-42.

Anne Querrien, “The Metropolis and the Capital,” *Zone 1/2* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1986), 219-221

3 The Metropolitan Subject

2.07 * Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life,” *On Individuality and Social Forms*, ed. David Levine, ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971), 324-339.

* Ernest W. Burgess, "The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project," *The City: Suggestions for Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment*, ed. Robert E. Park and Ernest W. Burgess (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1925), 47-62.

* Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," In *American Journal of Sociology* 44, 1-24.

* Michel Foucault, "Docile Bodies," *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), 135-156.

Gilles Deleuze, "Postscript on Societies of Control," *October* 59 (Winter 1992), 73-77.

4 Fordism and the Decongested City

2.14 * David Harvey, "Fordism" in *The Condition of Postmodernity*, (Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 1989), 125-140.

* Harvey Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine," in *American Journal of Sociology* 82, September 1976, 309-332.

Robert M. Fogelson, "The Central Business District: Downtown in the 1920s," *Downtown*, 183-217.

Peter Galison, "War Against the Center," *Grey Room* 4, Summer 2001, 6-33.

5 The Corporate Machine

2.21 * William H. Whyte, "Introduction" and "A Generation of Bureaucrats," *The Organization Man*, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1956), 3-13 and 63-78.

Abalos and Herreros, "The Evolution of Space Planning in the Workplace." *Tower and Office: From Modernist Theory to Contemporary Practice* (Cambridge: Buell Center/Columbia Book of Architecture/The MIT Press, 2005), 177-196. (first half of chapter)

Reinhold Martin, "The Physiognomy of the Office," *The Organizational Complex*, (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2003), 80-105, 114-121.

6 Research, Kazys in Taliesin

2.28

7 The Megalopolis and the Individual

- 3.07 * Stanley Milgram, "The Individual in the City" *The Individual in the Social World*, (Addison-Wesley, 1977), 3-118.

* David Riesman, *The Lonely Crowd: A Study of the Changing American Character*, abridged and rev. ed. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001), 3-65.

* Herbert J. Gans, "The Vitality of Community Culture," *The Levittowners. Ways of Life and Politics in a New Suburban Community* (New York: Random House, 1967), 185-219

* Victor Gruen, "Cityscape and Landscape," *Arts and Architecture* 72 (September, 1955), 18-19, 36.

Peter Rowe, "Corporate Estates," *Making a Middle Landscape* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1991), pp. 149-181.

8 The Network Enterprise

- 3.1 * Melvin M. Webber, "Order in Diversity: Community Without Propinquity," *Cities and Space: The Future of Urban Land*, ed. Lowden Wingo, Jr. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1963), 23.

* David Harvey, "From Fordism to Flexible Accumulation," *The Condition of Postmodernity*, 141-172.

* Manuel Castells, "The Network Enterprise" in *The Rise of the Network Society*, 2nd edition, (New York: Blackwell, 2000), 163-296.

* Richard Barbrook and Andy Cameron, "The Californian Ideology," <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/theory-californianideology-main.html>.

* "Office Landscape," *Progressive Architecture*, (September 1964), 201-203.

* "Bürolandschaft, U.S.A.," *Progressive Architecture*, (May 1968), 174-177.

Abalos and Herreros, 197-211. (second half of chapter)

Malcolm Gladwell, "Designs for Working," *The New Yorker*, December 11, 2000, 60-70.

9 Spring Break

10 Neoliberalism, the Cult of the Authentic, and the City Core

- 3.2 * Jane Jacobs, "Introduction," *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (New York: Vintage
8 Books, 1961), 2-25.

* Sharon Zukin, "Living Lofts as Terrain and Market" and "The Creation of a 'Loft Lifestyle' in *Loft Living* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1982), 1-22, 58-81.

Richard Florida, "The Transformation of Everyday Life" and "The Creative Class," in *The Rise of the Creative Class* (New York: Basic Books, 2002), 1-17, 67-82.

David Harvey, "The Constructing of Consent," *A Brief History of Neo-Liberalism* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), 39-63.

11 Global Cities

- 4.0 * Saskia Sassen, "On Concentration and Centrality in the Global City," Paul L. Knox and Peter J.
4 Taylor, eds., *World Cities in a World-System* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 63-78.

* Castells "The Space of Flows," *The Rise of the Network Society*, 407-459.

Saskia Sassen, "Global City 20 Years Later," *A+U*, forthcoming.

Optional:

Martin Pawley, "From Postmodernism to Terrorism," *Terminal Architecture*, 132-154.

12 The Unmarked Megalopolis and the Edgeless City

- 4.1 Robert Fishman, "Beyond Suburbia: The Rise of the Technoburb," *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise*
1 *and Fall of Suburbia* (New York: Basic Books, 1987), 182-208.

Rob Kling, Spencer Olin, and Mark Poster, "Beyond the Edge: The Dynamism of Postsuburban Regions," and "The Emergence of Postsuburbia: An Introduction," Rob Kling, Spencer Olin, and Mark Poster, eds. *Postsuburban California: The Transformation of Orange County* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), vii-xx, 1-30.

Selections from Michael J. Weiss, *The Clustered World: How We Live, What We Buy, and What it All Means About Who We Are* (New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 1999).

Bill Bishop, "The Power of Place," *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2008), 19-80.

Robert E. Lang and Jennifer LeFurgy, "Edgeless Cities: Examining the Noncentered Metropolis," *Housing Policy Debate* 14 (2003): 427-460.

13 The Financialized City

- 4.1 Karen Ho, "Wall Street's Orientation: Exploitation, Empowerment, and the Politics of Hard
8 Word," *Liquidated. An Ethnography of Wall Street* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2009), 73-121.
See
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/lib/columbia/docDetail.action?docID=10335353&p00=liquidated%20ethnography>

Julian Brash, "Running Government Like a Business" and "The Luxury City" in *Bloomberg's New York. Class and Governance in the Luxury City* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011), 75-129.

Kevin Phillips, "Preface," "Introduction. The Panic of August," "Finance: The New Real Economy?" *Bad Money. Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism* (New York: Penguin, 2009), xi-lxxiv and 1-68.

Kim Moody, "Behind the Skyline: New York's Elite Remakes the City and Itself," *From Welfare State to Real Estate. Regime Change in New York City, 1974 to the Present*, 196-242.

14 The Over-Connected City

- 4.2 Kazys Varnelis, "Introduction: Networked Ecologies," *The Infrastructural City: Networked Ecologies*
5 *in Los Angeles* (Barcelona: ACTAR, 2008), 04-17.

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital." *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1995): 65-78

Wolfgang Scheppe, *Migropolis: Venice / Atlas of a Global Situation* (Berlin: Hatje Cantz, 2009).

Rem Koolhaas, "Junkspace" *October* (Spring 2002), 175-190.

John Urry, "Cultural Changes and the Restructuring of Tourism," *The Tourist Gaze* (London: Sage, 2002), 74-93.