

Proseminar in Metropolitan Design

LA 5721, Fall, 2006
College of Design

Course Time / Course Location:
Wednesday Mornings, 9:00AM-11:00AM
Room Rapson 15

July 15, 2006, version. This is not the final version of the syllabus until September 1.

INSTRUCTORS

Peter Brown, brow1804@umn.edu, Office Hours TBD.
Ann Forsyth, Forsyth@umn.edu, Office Hours 4-6 Mondays.

3 credits
Prerequisite Arch 5711 or permission of instructor

COURSE OVERVIEW & STRUCTURE

This reading seminar explores the evolution of the contemporary city, tracing the dynamics that created contemporary urban spatial patterns, and the planning and design theories that have guided public interventions in the built environment. Most weeks will present a case study for analysis, in the context of accompanying theoretical readings.

Overall, this course provides a forum for advanced discussions in the area of urban and metropolitan design. The title "metropolitan design" indicates the course's focus on the metropolitan context of urban design, and on the contribution of many disciplines to its practice.

LOGISTICS

Readings are on reserve at the library in Rapson.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS

Week 1 (9/6): Introduction and Logistics (AF/PB)

Week 2 (9/13): What is Urban Design? (AF/PB)

- Recent history of urban design
- Urban design approaches
- Urban design and the professions
- Techniques and analyses in urban design

Handout: Conceptual Map of Urban Design Approaches and Methods

Other activity

Sign up for presentations.

Assigned Readings:

- Krieger, Alex. 2006. Where and How Does Urban Design Happen. *Harvard Design Magazine* 24: 64-71.
- Lynch, Kevin. 1981. *Good City Form*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter 4: Three Normative Theories.
- Lang, Jon. 2005. *Urban Design: A Typology of Procedures and Products*. Oxford: Architectural Press. Part 1 and Chapter 1: The Nature of Urban Design and Urban Designing (pp. 3-23).

Week 3 (9/20): Urban Design and the Grand Manner/Grand Blueprint (AF)

- The architecture of the city
- Classical and modernist approaches
 - Levels of comprehensiveness in grand planning

Assigned Readings:

- Holston, James. 1989. *The Modernist City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2: Blueprint Utopia.
- Hegeman, Werner and Elbert Peets. 1922/2001. Civic Art. In *Time Saver Standards for Urban Design*. Donald Watson, Alan Plattus, Robert Shibley eds. New York: McGraw Hill. (pp. 2.3-1-2.3-18).
- Bacon, Edmond. 1959/2001. Design Structure of Baroque Rome. In *Time Saver Standards for Urban Design*. Donald Watson, Alan Plattus, Robert Shibley eds. New York: McGraw Hill. (pp. 2.11-1-2.11-12).
- <http://nolli.uoregon.edu/>

Week 4 (9/27): Urban Design as Public Policy (PB)

- Design review guidelines
- NYC UD offices in the 60s and 70s.
- Guiding private development
- Urban design and real estate development

Guest: Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council [to confirm]

Assigned Readings:

- Barnett, Jonathan. 1974. Designing Cities Without Designing Buildings. In *Urban Design as Public Policy: Practical Methods for Improving Cities*, pp.29-68. New York: Architectural Record Books/McGraw-Hill.
- Barnett, Jonathan. 1995. The Fractured Metropolis: Improving the New City, Restoring the Old City, Reshaping the Region. New York: Harper Collins. Chapter 9: The Changing Philosophy of Planning and Design, pp. 177-190.
- Sternberg, Ernest. 2000. An Integrative Theory of Urban Design. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 66, 3: 265-278.

Week 5 (10/4): Urban Design Creating Communities (AF)

- Forms and levels of community
- The neighborhood idea and its inspirations: small towns, identifiable districts, etc.

Guest: David Frank, Shafer Richardson

Assigned Readings:

- Alexander, C., S. Ishakawa, M. Silversteen. 1977. *A Pattern Language*. New York: Oxford University Press. Excerpt pages 69-90 (Community of 7,000, subculture boundary, identifiable neighborhoods, neighborhood boundary).
- Lynch, Kevin. 1981. *Good City Form*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter 13: City Size and the Idea of Neighborhood.
- Silver, Chris. 1985. Neighborhood Planning in Historical Perspective. *Journal of the American Planning* 51, 2: 161-174, read 165-170.

Week 6 (10/11): Restorative Urbanism and Community Nostalgia (AF)

- Contextualism, "Townscape", and Preservation

- Neo-traditionalism and the new urbanism

Assigned Readings:

- Hine, Thomas. 2001. Preservation's Shackles: Is the Movement Doomed to Enshrine an Imagined Past? *Architectural Record*, November: 90-92.
- Jacobs, Jane. 1961. Introduction and Chapter 2: the Uses of Sidewalks: Safety. In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, New York, Random House, pp.13-65.
- Duany, A., E. Plater-Zyberk, and J. Speck. 2000. *Suburban Nation*. New York: North Point Press, Chapter 1: How to Make a Town.

Congress of the New Urbanism. The Charter of the New Urbanism.

Week 7 (10/18): Urban Design as Visionary Urbanism (PB)

- Avant-garde perspectives
- Projecting radical futures
- Big architecture
- Archigram to Koolhaas

Assigned Readings:

- Koolhaas, Rem. 1995. Atlanta, Whatever Happened to Urbanism, and The Generic City. In *S,M,L,XL*. New York: Monacelli Press, pp. 835-858, 961-971, 1248-1264.
- Harvey, David. 2000. *Spaces of Hope*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 8: Spaces of Utopia.
- Gordon, David L. A. 1993. Architecture: How Not to Build a City – Implementation at Battery Park City. In *Landscape and Urban Planning* 26, pp. 35-54.

Week 8 (10/25): Land Planning and Ecological Issues (AF)

- Philosophies of environmental planning
- Landscape architecture tradition

Other:

Draft design theory due for in-class workshop. Bring three copies.

Assigned Readings:

- McHarg, Ian. 1969. *Design With Nature*. Garden City NY: Doubleday/Natural History Press. Chapter: the Plight (pp. 19-29).
- Shane, Graham. 2004. The emergence of landscape urbanism. *Harvard Design Magazine* 19: 1-8. http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/research/publications/hdm/back/19_onlandscape.html
- Steiner, Frederick. 2002. *Human Ecology*. Washington, DC: Island Press. Chapter 4: Landscape. Landscape Urbanism Generator: <http://www.ruderal.com/bullshit/bullshit.htm>

Handout: Environmental ethics.

Week 9 (11/1): Urban Design as Smart Growth and Sustainable Development (PB)

- The role of urban design in metropolitan and regional planning
- Growth management and the debate over sprawl
- A holistic approach to sustainable design – micro/ macro

Assigned Readings:

- Calthorpe, Peter. 1993. *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community and the American Dream*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, pp. 15-38.
- Krieger, Alex. 1999. Beyond the Rhetoric of Smart Growth. *Architecture* June.
- Beatley, Timothy. 2000. *Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities*. Washington, DC: Island Press. Chapter 13: The Promise of Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities, pp. 407-428.

Week 10 (11/8): Urban Design in the Suburbs (AF)

- Definitions

- Conceptual frameworks
- International experiences in developing new towns and new communities

Assigned Readings:

Forsyth, A. 2005. *Reforming Suburbia*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 1: The New Community Experiment.

McKenzie, Evan. 1994. *Privatopia*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1: From Garden City to Privatopia.

Southworth, M. and B. Parthasarathy. 1997. The Suburban Public Realm II. *Journal of Urban Design* 2, 1: 9-34.

Week 11 (11/15): Urban Design in the Pluralist/Diverse City (PB)

- Urban design and social control
- Multiculturalism
- Gender and sexuality
- Divided cities

Assigned Readings:

Smith, Neil. New City, New Frontier: The Lower East Side as Wild, Wild West. In *Variations on a Theme Park*, Michael Sorkin, editor, pages 61-93. New York: Hill and Wang, 1992.

Marcuse, Peter. 1997. The Enclave, the Citadel, and the Ghetto: What Has Changed in the Post-Fordist US City. *Urban Affairs Review* 33, 2: 228-264.

Week 12 (11/22): Urban Design in the Capitalist Metropolis (PB)

- Public/private partnerships: Financing public objectives with private funds
- Community participation and Community Development Corporations

Assigned Readings:

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: The University of California Press. Chapter 3: The City as a Growth Machine. pages 50-98.

Frieden, Bernard J. and Lynne B. Sagalyn. *Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities*. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1991. Chapter 7: Deal Making, pp. 134-153.

Fainstein, Susan. 2001. *The City Builders*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. Chapters 2 and 3: The Development Industry and Urban Redevelopment; and Markets, Decision Makers and the Real-Estate Cycle, pp. 27-78.

<http://www.deadmalls.com/>

Week 13 (11/29): Urban Design and the Revitalization of Downtown (PB)

- Selling the City
- The Tourist Bubble
- Authenticity in the urban environment
- Shopping as Entertainment

Assigned Readings:

Judd, Dennis R. Constructing the Tourist Bubble. In *The Tourist City*, Susan S. Fainstein and Dennis R. Judd, editors, pages 35-53. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

Boyer, M. Christine. Cities for Sale: Merchandising History at South Street Seaport. In *Variations on a Theme Park*, Michael Sorkin, editor, pages 181-204. New York: Hill and Wang, 1992.

Campbell, Robert. Evaluation: Boston's 'Upper of Urbanity.' In *American Institute of Architects Journal* 70 (June 1981), pages 24-31.

Week 14 (12/6): Current Trends in Urban Design and Cities of the Future (AF/PB)

- Living downtown – again (for the first time in 50 years)
- New urban housing and neighborhoods in the downtown core

Assigned Readings:

Hall, Peter. 1998. *Cities in Civilization*. Chapter 30, "The City of the Coming Golden Age," pp. 942-989.

Castells, Manuel. 2000. *The Rise of the Network Society*. Chapter 6, "The Space of Flows," pp. 407-459.

Week 15 (12/13): Film Week (AF/PB)

- *The City*, 1939
- *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, 1979

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to participating in weekly readings and discussions, students will be required to produce 6 short papers on the readings, and individual term paper describing your own approach to metropolitan design, and make one in-class presentation.

A few times during semester you'll need to bring photographs to class.

Short assignments (60 percent)

This assignment requires you to write 6 short papers commenting on the readings in class (each 1-2 pages, up to 800 words but less is wonderful).

In each paper you will need to:

1. Briefly outline the basic message of *each* reading (50%)
2. Answer one of the questions listed in the discussion questions handout (50%)
3. Keep within the word/page limit (and put the word count on the paper) (up to -10% penalty)

You may choose to write about the readings in any six weeks with assigned readings, but we suggest that you avoid leaving all your papers until the last weeks. The papers are due in class the week we discuss the readings that are the topics of the papers. Thus, you will have to come up with a position *before* we deal with the issues in class. This is not meant to be a trick question—we don't expect you to second guess our positions—rather it is intended to ensure that at least some members of the class are prepared to discuss the issues in some depth.

You will be graded on how well you respond to the three issues above, and on your ability to communicate your points effectively. While there will not be one right answer your comments do need to be well thought out. *Late papers will receive a grade of zero.*

Presentation (10 percent)

During one week each student will give a 30 minute presentation followed by discussion on a case related to that week's topics. Students will sign up early in the semester and meet with one of the instructors at least a week in advance to plan the presentation. The presentation will include (a) a 1 page written summary of key issues to be placed on the web site or circulated via email, (b) a 20 minute presentation framing the readings or presenting a related case, and (c) key questions to help guide the class discussion. Questions and the draft summary are due via email to Peter and Ann 24 hours before class. Grades will consider (1) content and (2) presentation skills including skills in engaging the class in discussion.

Your urban design theory (term paper) (30 percent)

Write a 6-page, double-spaced paper developing your own approach to metropolitan design. You must cite and seriously engage with at least five class readings in your paper; you can, of course, engage with more. You can re-use parts of the shorter writing assignments in this paper. A draft of the paper is due in week eight for comment by the other students in a structured workshop format. (We want you to start thinking about the issue early in the semester so you can use it as a way of thinking about the class readings). The final paper is due at the end of the semester on (December 6). Turn the paper into 1 Rapson Hall.

Class participation

Each week we will call on class members to discuss the readings. You are responsible for preparing comments on the readings even if you have not written about that week's readings as part of the assignment. This component is not graded; however, if you are on the margin between two grades we will take participation, positively, or negatively, into account.

Grading

Six short papers @ 10 each	60
Term paper	30.
Presentation	10
TOTAL:	100

Grades will be assigned based on percentage (90% and above = A range, 80% and above = B range, etc.), followed by subjective analysis of dramatic improvement over the semester, class participation, and the like, which will be favorably rewarded.

Please review the University Senate Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy, if you are unsure about the standards associated with each letter grade:
www1.umn.edu/usenate/policies/gradingpolicy.html

A SERIOUS NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism and cheating, on any course assignment, will not be tolerated. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the class. You may not submit work previously submitted for another class to complete any part of this class. All coursework submitted must represent your own, original work. References to the work of others (including images) must be properly cited. **If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor immediately!**

ADDITIONAL READING—to be supplied

- Carmona, M. T. Heath, T. Oc, and S. Tiesdell. 2003. *Public Places: Urban Spaces*. Oxford: Architectural Press. Chapter 1: Urban Design Today.
- Moudon, Anne Vernez. 1992. A Catholic Approach to Organizing what Urban Designers Should Know. *Journal of Planning Literature* 6, 4: 331-349.
- Mitchell, William. 1999. Prologue: Urban Requiem, and March of the Magnets" In *e-topia: "Urban Life, Jim -- But Not as We Know it"*. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 3-29.
- Hayden, Dolores. 1981. What Would a Non-Sexist City be Like? In *The City Reader*, pp. 503-518.
- Harvey, David. 1990. *The Condition of Postmodernity*. Introduction, pp. 1-9; Chapter 4: Postmodernism in the city: architecture and urban design, pp. 66-98.
- Schurch, Thomas. 1999. Reconsidering Urban Design: Thoughts on its Definition and Status as a Field or Profession. *Journal of Urban Design* 4, 1: 5-28.
- Stelter, Gilbert. 2000. Rethinking the Significance of the City Beautiful Idea. In R. Freestone Ed. *Urban Planning in a Changing World*. London: E&FN Spon, pp. 98-117.

Rossi, Aldo. 1982 (in Italian 1966). Introduction to the First American Edition, and Introduction: Urban Artifacts and a Theory of the City. In *The Architecture of the City*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 13-27.