

ESUA program,

Draft for a proposed course in Urban Design

Subject type:

Design Studio

Course name:

Contemporary trends in Urban Design

Aim

The course will adopt a critical perspective towards contemporary trends in urban planning and design, in order to develop an in-depth approach toward a more meaningful urban design for the future. The objective of the course is to stimulate students to formulate their own viewpoints by sharpening their critical thinking and enabling a provocative debate into the inquiry of the conceptual nature of urban design. The course concentrates on urban design studios where students will investigate the complex nature of 'successful' urban design trends (those that are at the leading edge of practice today) and attempts to identify and evaluate examples of programmatic and experimental urban design on macro, meso and micro levels.

Objectives

To.....

After completing the course the student will be able to:

- Comprehend more clearly the relation between theory and practice in urban planning and design and the plethora of disciplines involved in bridging architecture and planning on micro and meso scales.
- Understand theoretically and practically the complexities of urban design issues in not just designing but also retrofitting suburban, town or central urban areas.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of problems that arise in creating and maintaining environments for urban activities as well as approaches and methods of urban planning and design in helping to cope with such problems.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of various contemporary approaches and trends to everyday urbanism problems in cities and suburban areas.
- Be able to express own urban planning and design results as well as other viewpoints in a coherent and qualitative way by the way of drawings, sketches, essays and ad-lib/oral manner.
- Have advanced skills of urban design studio work in order to comprehend major urban issues both as end users and as researchers and technical experts.

Syllabus

One of the major difficulties and problems with contemporary urban design theory, debate and practice is the sense that urbanism is 'architecture, only at a larger scale and within an urban context'. This results in far too much emphasis on the 'design', and not enough of an understanding of the 'urban' factors. The course focuses on experimental and conscious design choices in the urban scale and examines selected aspects of urban design and development that will apply to selected issues, ideas and contemporary theories.

The main project deals with the development of a specific area in the greater XX City region. The basics of city-making and urban analysis is presented in a set of design exercises where students first will have the possibility to apply a chosen contemporary trend in urban planning and design in the project area. The idea is to illustrate and get hands on" knowledge of the practical consequences of different trends and ideals. In the following project, proposals are developed with a close link to an individual programmatic or ideological standpoint.

As a basis for this, students will complete an urban planning and design essay based primarily on the assigned contemporary readings, which will include a discussion of selected literature and specific design comparisons. The own programmatic text and the own design is presented as a coherent proposal for future urban development. Studios and charrettes involve working in teams with distinguished guest design professionals as well as local practitioners and community representatives.

Prerequisites

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Requirements

Short Urban Design Paper Essay 2c

Short Urban Design and Planning Exercises 1c

Urban design studio project & critique presentation 5c

Attendance and (pro) active participation in the course discussions 2c

Required reading

- Shane, David Grahame. 2005. *Recombinant Urbanism: Conceptual Modelling in Architecture, Urban Design and City Theory*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Lang, Jon. 2005. *Urban Design: A typology of Procedures and Products*. Boston: Architectural Press.
- Fishman, Robert, Mehrotra, Rahul and Strickland, Roy. 2004. *Everyday Urbanism, New Urbanism and Post Urbanism & ReUrbanism (Michigan Debates on Urbanism I-III)*. New York: Arts Press.
- Watson, Donald, Plattus, Alan and Shibley, Robert. 2003. *Time-Saver Standards for Urban Design*. New York: McGraw-Hill Professional.
- Coates, Nigel. 2003. *A Guide to Ectacity*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
- Gindroz, Ray and Levine, Karen. 2003. *The Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

- Shamiyeh, Michael and DOM Research Laboratory (Ed.) What People Want – Populism in architecture and Design.
- Cuthbert, Alexander. 2002. Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design. London: Blackwell Publishers.

Sketch for Day-Today curriculum

	Weekly subject					
S1	Intro literature	Territories of urban design	Lecture contemporary trends in urbanism	Exercise assistants Visit to exercise area	Studio time First sketch	Studio time First sketch
	Intro exercise area	Film: Truman Show + analysis exercise	Study visit Examples of contemporary trends, (modernist development)	Studio time First sketch model	SketchUp refresh session expert help assistants	Pin up review, first sketch
	Weekly subject					
S2	Contemporary Trend design	Lecture 3 urbanisms and beyond	Lecture Contemporary trends and discourses in urban politics	Exercise assistants Analysing exercise area	Readings	Literature Plenum review
	Contemporary philosophies	Film: Blade Runner, analysis exercise	Study visit Examples of cont trends, (urbanist development)	Studio time Preparing second sketch	Preparation of literature plenum review	Literature seminar
	Weekly subject					
S3	Workshop Wilhelmsson (modernist designer)	Wilhelmsson lecture	Studio work Analyze + crit of W projects	Wilhelmsson studio time	Studio time second sketch	Pin up review Second sketch
	New modernism Post urbanism	Wilhelmsson projects	Studio time second sketch	W studio lecture	Studio time second sketch	Critique on second sketch
	Weekly subject					
S4	Workshop Einarsson (urbanist designer)	Einarsson lecture	Studio work Analyze + crit of E projects	Einarsson studio time	Studio time third sketch	Pin up review Third sketch
	New urbanism Post modernism	Einarsson projects	Studio time second sketch	E studio lecture	Studio time third sketch	Critique on third sketch
	Weekly subject					
S5	Role playing design 5 groups	Division in 5 groups	Studio time fourth sketch	Exercise assistants	Studio time fourth sketch	Pin up review fourth sketch
		Group research on given trends	Studio time fourth sketch	Studio time fourth sketch	Check Up TH JS	Critique on fourth sketch
	Weekly subject					
S6	My own trend manifesto	Intro	Studio time	Exercise assistants	Studio time	Pin up review of my own trend
	My own trend design	film Michigan debates on urbanism 1	Studio time	Studio time	Studio time Check Up	
	Weekly subject					
S7	My own trend design	Intro	Studio time	Exercise assistants	Studio time	Critique of my own design
	presentation	film Michigan debates on urbanism 1	Studio time	Studio time	Studio time Check Up TH JS	Critique of my own design
	Weekly subject					
S8	Analysis of other students designs	Intro + assignments	Studio time analysis	Exercise assistants	Presentation of analysis	Presentation of analysis Invited guests
	Performance based design - lecture	Guest lecture on evaluation and results	Studio time analysis	Studio time analysis	Presentation of analysis	Critique on analysis Invited guests