

# **Urbanism, Urban Design, and the Contemporary City**

**Seminar in Urban Design 23-365-604**

**Autumn Quarter 2003**

**F 1:00 – 3:45 pm, Room # 6100**

**School of Planning, College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning**

**University of Cincinnati**

Professor Menelaos Triantafillou    Office Hours: M W 1:30-3:00 pm Rm.# 6211  
Email: menelaos.triantafillou@uc.edu

---

## **Course Description:**

The pedagogy of urban design aims at developing the student's capacity to address the complex and multi-layered fabric of the contemporary city and the system of forces that continuously reconfigure it, and how to intervene through effective and sensitive proposals. Currently, there is little consensus on city issues in urban design (from an urban planning perspective) and architectural theory (as is currently debated by key practicing architects). It is increasingly difficult to talk about 'the urban', 'urbanism', and what is meant by 'new urbanism', and how our understanding of these concepts can make it possible to know what we are working with and to advance effective design proposals. Established urban design approaches and traditional urban form models are being challenged for their effectiveness to address the issues of urban fragmentation, global markets and urbanization, and the forces of the information age. The image of 'urbanism' is being embraced most notably by the planning profession and is marketed as the solution to the ills of the city and its urban sprawl.

The seminar will engage the student in the understanding of contemporary urbanism and how this new and informed knowledge of looking at the city may advance effective and sensitive design interventions. Through understanding, critique, and discussion of key readings, the seminar will advance a framework within which urban design is integrated into the realm of urbanism. We will reframe urban issues through familiarization with selected writings from urban planning and architectural theory, as well as established and emerging theory on urbanism from philosophers and urban sociologist, in order to understand how the contemporary city is being shaped, and how through informed knowledge and sensitivity might we intervene in an urban design capacity.

The seminar will meet once a week and students will be required to come prepared to discuss and debate assigned readings from a class reader. In addition, students will prepare periodic essays with their personal analysis on key issues discussed. An in depth term paper will be required on a student selected subject from a master list of possible topics to be offered by the instructor.

## **Prerequisite Skills:**

This seminar is offered to graduate planning and architecture students. Reading and critical analysis of issues and discussion during class is required. Advanced undergraduates (4<sup>th</sup> year minimum or permission of instructor) may also register for class.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Familiarize the student with selected writings and critiques on urbanism and urban design theory (established and emerging).
2. Comprehend the current state of urbanization, the emerging contemporary city, and the issues and challenges facing urban design.
3. Critically examine and critique the New Urbanism movement and its premise for addressing contemporary urban problems.
4. Help the student develop a level of comfort with the integration of urban design into the field of urbanism.
5. Discuss a conceptual approach for understanding what we are working with in order to advance sensitive design interventions.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance and Participation. The success of the seminar will require the students' attendance and participation in discussions. Absence from class must be excused, in advance if possible.

Reading Assignments. Reading material will be assigned from the 'seminar reader' for each class session. Assigned material must be read and each student should come prepared to discuss it. For each class, approximately 50-60 pages of reading material will be required. The instructor encourages discussion and personal thoughts in an effort to debate and critique ideas and concepts.

Periodic Essays. Three essays on a specific issue, theme, or case study will be required by each student. One of the essays will be presented during class at a scheduled time. The essays should be organized around a theme or issue and should provide for an in-depth analysis and discussion based on the readings and any additional material necessary. The issues list will be developed during the first and second class sessions and a schedule for presentations will be made during the second session. The length of each essay should be approximately 1,000 words plus any necessary graphics.

Final Paper. The issue, theme or case study presented in class will be further developed into a final paper. Approximately 25 pages will be required. A detailed outline of the paper will be on a date to be specified later. The date for the draft paper will also be specified later on. The final paper will be due on last day of class.

### **Grading Criteria:**

A student will be considered for an 'A' grade when he/she

- Completes all assignments and reading on time
- Demonstrates thorough knowledge and insight in class discussion
- Participates in discussions with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness
- Has no unexcused absences
- Asks critical and thoughtful questions

- Offers thorough, professional, and well written essays
- Offers a thorough, professional, and well written paper
- Performs well above average in the presentation of the issue, theme, or case study

A student will be considered for a 'B' grade when he/she

- Completes all assignments and reading on time
- Demonstrates knowledge and enthusiasm in class discussion
- Has no unexcused absences
- Offers thoughtful and well organized essays
- Offers thoughtful and well organized paper
- Performs above average in the presentation of the issue, theme, or case study

'C' grades will be given to students who thoroughly complete all assignments, participate in class in a meaningful way, and perform at an average level in their presentation, and offer average essays and a final paper.

No grades of 'I', 'N' or 'Y' will be given, except in case of illness or emergency. Late essay and paper submissions will be penalized one letter grade. No essay assignment may be more than four days late. Final paper must be submitted on the last day of class. Each student must be very well prepared for his or her scheduled presentation.

The following weight will be given in determining grades:

Participation/attendance:	25%
Essays:	15%
Paper outline:	05%
Draft paper:	15%
Final paper:	40%

### **Seminar Schedule:**

#### **September**

- 26 Introduction, general discussion on the focus of the seminar. Commence list of urban design issues, themes.

*Reading assignment:*

1. Global Urban Observatory, 'Global Trends', UN Habitat, 2003, pp.1-4
2. Michael Kirkland, 'Cities of Impossibility', Harvard Design Magazine, 1, 1997, pp. 28-32
3. M. Ismail Serageldin, 'A Decent Life', Harvard Design Magazine, 1, 1997, pp. 25-27
4. Robert Fishman, 'Cities After the End of Cities', Harvard Design Magazine, 1, 1997, pp. 14-15

5. Mike Davis, 'Ozzie and Harriet in Hell', Harvard Design Magazine, 1, 1997, pp. 1-4
6. Lawrence A. Herzog, 'The Transfrontier Metropolis', Harvard Design Magazine, 1, 1997, pp. 1-5
7. Peter Hall, 'The City of the Tarnished Belle Époque', in Cities of Tomorrow, Third Edition, 2002, pp.405-426
8. Edward J. Blakely, 'Competitive Advantage for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century City', APA Journal, Spring 2001, Vol. 67, No.2, pp-133-141

## October

### 03 Urban Restructuring and the Contemporary City

*Reading assignment:*

1. John Mollenkopf, Manuel Castells, 'Introduction', in 'Dual City', John Mollenkopf and Manuel Castells, Eds., 1991, pp.3-22
2. Edward Soja, 'Poles Apart: Restructuring in New York and Los Angeles', in 'Dual City', John Mollenkopf and Manuel Castells, Eds., 1991, pp.361-376
3. Manuel Castells and John Mollenkopf, 'Conclusion: Is New Yrk a Dual City?', in 'Dual City', John Mollenkopf and Manuel Castells, Eds., 1991, pp.399-418
4. Sze Tsung Leong, 'Ulterior Spaces', in Project on the City 2, Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.765-793
5. Michael Benedikt, 'Environmental Stoicism and Place Machismo', in Harvard Design Magazine No. 16, Winter/Spring 2002, pp.1-8
6. Daniel Kemmis, 'Living Next to One Another', in Parabola, Winter 1993, pp.6-14
7. Jane Jacobs, 'Where Trade Began', in Parabola, Winter 1993, pp.15-20

### 10 Urban, Urbanism, the Transforming American City Center, Postmodern Urbanism

*Reading assignment:*

1. Bo Gronlund, 'The Question of Urbanity', 2003 pp.1-4
2. Bernard J. Frieden, Lynne B. Sagalyn, Chapter 14 - 'An Unfinished Renaissance', in 'Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities', MIT Press 1997, pp.287-316
3. Donovan D. Rypkema, 'The Importance of Downtown in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century', APA Journal, Winter 2003, Vol.69, No. 1 pp.9-15
4. Carl Abbot, 'Towards an Urban Renaissance', APA Journal, Autumn 2000, Vol. 66, No 4, pp 357-358
5. Louis Wirth, 'Urbanism as a Way of Life', in 'Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times, Philip Kasinitz, Ed., 1995, pp.58-81
6. Michael Dear, 'In the City Time Becomes Visible: Intentionality and Urbanism in Los Angeles, 1781-1991', in 'The City: Los Angeles and Urban Theory at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century', Allen J. Scott and Edward W. Soja, Eds. 1996, pp.76-105

7. Samuel R. Smith, 'Postmodernism is Dead: Now What?', *Intelligent Agent*, 2003, No.1, pp.1-6
  8. M. Christine Boyer, 'The Spectacle of Spatial Restructuring, Chapter 7- The Instruments of Memory', in *The City of Collective Memory*, MIT Press, 1996, pp.407-420 (For a more comprehensive understanding of the role of memory in city form see entire chapter 7)
- 17 Overview of European and Anglo-American Urban Design Theory, and Planning Approaches to City Development

*Reading assignment:*

1. Nan Ellin, 'Urban Design Theory on the European Continent', in *Postmodern Urbanism*, 1996, pp. 9-43
  2. \_\_\_\_\_, 'Urban Design Theory: The Anglo-American Axis', in *Postmodern Urbanism*, 1996, pp. 44-103
  3. Peter Hall, 'The City of Theory', in *Cities of Tomorrow*, 2002, pp.353-377
- 24 Field Trip City Center Cincinnati – instructions will be given during the October 17 class
- 31 Urban Design Theory

*Reading assignment*

1. Bo Grunlund, 'Urban in Planning and Architectural Theory', pp.1-15
2. Kevin Lynch, 'Urban Design (1974)', in 'City Sense and City Design', Tridib Banerjee and Michael Southworth, Eds., MIT Press 1996, pp.511-534
3. Christopher Alexander, 'Introduction, Chapter I: The Idea of a Growing Whole, and Chapter 2, The Overriding Rule', in *A New Theory of Urban Design*, 1987, pp.1-20
4. Allan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard, 'Toward an Urban Design Manifesto', *APA Journal*, Winter 1987, Vol. 53 No. 1, pp 112-120
5. Ernest Sternberg, 'An Integrative Theory of Urban Design', *APA Journal*, Summer 2000, Vol. 66 No. 3, pp. 265-278

**November**

- 07 Current Explorations: Urbanism and Urban Design in Architecture; Thematization, Authenticity

*Reading assignment:*

1. Bo Gronlund, 'Rem Koolhaas' Generic City', 2003, pp.1-9
2. Rem Koolhaas, 'Junkspace', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.408-422
3. Robert Venturi, 'Thoughts on the Architecture of the Scientific Workplace: Community, Change, and Continuity', in 'Iconography and Electronics Upon a Generic Architecture', 2002, pp. 219-226

4. Hans Ulrich and Rem Koolhaas, 'An Interview with Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.593-617
5. Daniel Herman, 'Jerde Transfer', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.403-407
6. Chuihua Judy Chung, 'Disney Space', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.271-297

14 Experience Economy, Urbanism and Shopping, Urban Entertainment Centers

*Reading assignment:*

1. B. Joseph Pine II, James H. Gilmore, 'Welcome to the Experience Economy', in 'The Experience Economy', 1999, pp. 1-25
2. Sze Tsung Leong, '...And Then There Was Shopping', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.129-135
3. John McMorrough, 'City of Shopping', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.193-204
4. 'Retail Statistics', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.51-57
5. Bernard J. Frieden, Lynne B. Sagalyn, Chapter 10 – 'Popular Success and Critical Dismay', in 'Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities', MIT Press 1997, pp.201-213
6. Bernard J. Frieden, Lynne B. Sagalyn, Chapter 13 – 'Downtown Malls and the City Agenda' in 'Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities', MIT Press 1997, pp.259-285

21 Privatization of City Center / Loss of Public Space

*Reading assignment:*

1. Bernard J. Frieden, Lynne B. Sagalyn, Chapter 11 – 'Privatizing the City.', in 'Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities', MIT Press 1997, pp.215-238
2. Bernard J. Frieden, Lynne B. Sagalyn, Chapter 12 – 'Marketplace Contributions', in 'Downtown, Inc.: How America Rebuilds Cities', MIT Press 1997, pp. 239-257
3. Mike Davies, 'Fortress Loss Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space', in 'Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times', Philip Kasinitz, Ed., 1995, pp.355-367
4. John McMorrough, 'Real(i)ty', in 'Project on the City 2', Chuiua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, Eds. Harvard Design School, 2001, pp.577-586
5. Jeff Weintraub, 'Varieties and Vicissitudes of Public Space', in 'Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times', Philip Kasinitz, Ed., 1995, pp.280-319

6. Michael Walzer, 'Pleasures and Costs of Urbanity', in 'Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times', Philip Kasinitz, Ed., 1995, pp.320-330
7. Tridib Banerjee, 'The Future of Public Space: Beyond Invented Streets and Reinvented Places', APA Journal, Winter 2001, Vol. 67, No,1, pp.9-24

28 Thanksgiving Holiday

## December

05 New Urbanism: Substance or Image? Critique

### *Reading assignment:*

1. Congress for New Urbanism, 'Charter of the New Urbanism', pp.1-2
2. Sir Peter Hall, 'Urban Renaissance/New Urbanism: Two Sides of the Same Coin?', APA Journal, Autumn 2000, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp 359-360
3. For NU projects and design principles check the Congress's site: [www.cnu.org](http://www.cnu.org)
4. Alex Marshall, 'Putting Some "City" Back In the Suburbs', The Washington Post, September 1, 1996, 3pages
5. \_\_\_\_\_, 'Suburb in Disguise' 7 pages
6. \_\_\_\_\_, 'Old Cities vs. New Urbanism: The Beat Goes On', AIA Architecture, May 1998
7. Jill Grant, 'Mixed Use in Theory and Practice', APA Journal, Winter 2002, Vol 68, No. 1, pp.71-84
8. Jack I. Nasar, 'Does Neotraditional Development Build Community?', Journal of Planning Education and Research, Autumn 2003, Vol 23, No. 1, pp.58-68
9. Kristen Day, 'New Urbanism and the Challenges of Designing for Diversity', Journal of Planning Education and Research, Autumn 2003, Vol 23, No. 1, pp.83-95
10. David Harvey, 'The New Urbanism and the Communitarian Trap', Harvard Design Magazine, Winter/Spring 1993, pp 68-69
11. Harvard Graduate School of Design, 'Urban or Suburban: A Discussion Held at the GSD in July 1996, with Commentary', Harvard Design Magazine, Winter/Spring 1997, pp. 47-63