URBAN DESIGN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MILWAUKEE INNER HARBOR
Arch 645/845 UP 858 Spring 2013
Tuesdays, Fridays 1:30-5:20

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Course Syllabus

Planning as civic art: Savannah Plan, James Edward Olglethorpe

A new urban neighborhood embracing "green infrastructure": Port Lands Estuary Plan, Toronto CA, Michael Van Valkenburg Associates, Inc.

Introduction: the Art of Urban Design

"Urban design and city building are surely among the most auspicious endeavors of this or any age, giving rise to a vision of life, art, artifact and culture that outlives its authors. It is the gift of its designers and makers to the future. Urban design is essentially an ethical endeavor, inspired by the vision of public art and architecture and refined by the science of construction." -Donald Watson

The focus of this integrative design studio is building community. Urban design, most directly defined, is the art of creating and shaping towns and cities. Urban design involves the arrangement and design of buildings, public spaces, transport systems, services, and amenities. Urban design is the process of giving form, shape, and character to groups of buildings, to whole neighborhoods, and the city.

It is a framework that orders the elements into a network of streets, squares, and blocks. Urban design blends architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning together to make urban areas functional, sustainable, and attractive.

Urban design is about making connections between people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric. Urban design draws together the many strands of place-making, environmental stewardship, social equity and economic viability into the creation of places with distinct beauty and identity. Urban design is derived from but transcends planning and transportation policy, architectural design, development economics, engineering and landscape. It draws these and other strands together creating a vision for an area and then deploying the resources and skills needed to bring the vision to life. Urban design practice areas range in scale from small public spaces or streets to neighborhoods, city-wide systems, or whole regions.

Course Objectives

- Develop knowledge of best practices in urban design, sustainability, and planning for urban redevelopment
- Learn how the design of the public realm is critical in fostering successful communities
- Create a high quality and sustainable development addressing the unique characteristics of this site that also serves as a model for other neighborhoods and urban locales

Milwaukee Inner Harbor Context

Course Description

As part of SARUP's multi-year Inner Harbor initiative, this studio will focus on integrating effective urban design and redevelopment plans with a full array of goals for a sustainable community. This challenge affects not only Milwaukee, but also a broad spectrum of urban communities worldwide. The site for our semester long effort will be the Grand Trunk sub-area of the Inner Harbor.

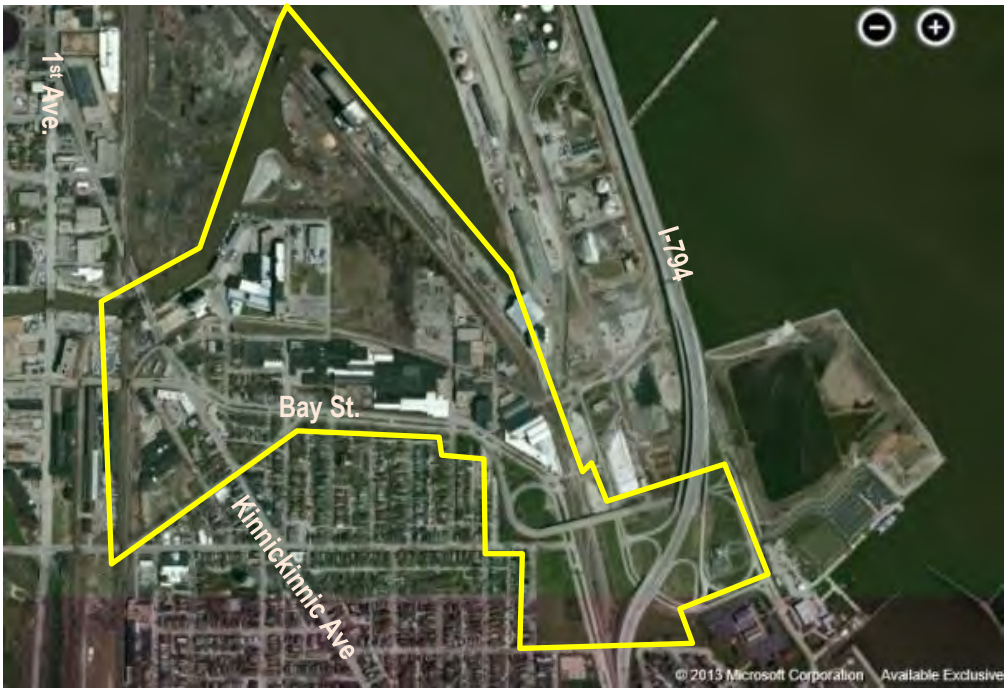
Over the past two years, this studio, along with others across the curriculum, has explored a broad range of urban design plans throughout the Inner Harbor. This included historical research, case studies, and detailed concepts for public places. This work provides a springboard for this semester's inquiry. The Inner Harbor is filled with old industrial sites, borders Kinnickknnic Avenue and the Bayview neighborhood, includes the new campus for the School of Freshwater Science, and surrounds a dramatically under-appreciated shoreline.

As you will learn over the course of the semester, urban design is a multidisciplinary endeavor. Architects, planners, landscape architects, civil and environmental engineers, real estate experts, and many other professions are typically part of the project design team. Our studio will respond to this reality in a number of ways. First, our studio includes students from both the planning and architectural programs. Secondly, there will be two other architectural building design and landscape design classes focusing on the Grand Trunk site. In addition, a group of civil engineering students from UW-Madison will be completing individual projects associated with the Grand Trunk site. While each class will focus on its own project paramaters, the intent is to create opportunities for collaboration and integrative learning between all classes.

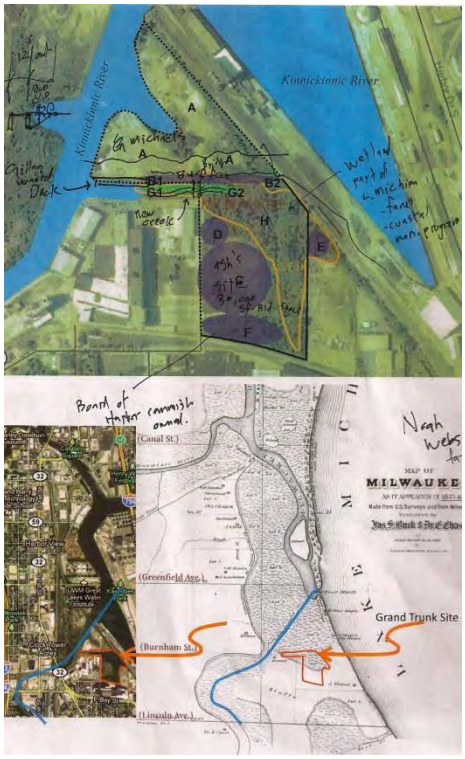
Project Description

Our semester-long project will be an exploration focusing on how to revitalize an evolving waterfront district, transforming it from an underutilized former industrial site into a thriving 24-hour mixed use community that reinforces and enhances existing residential neighborhoods What makes for a vital and sustainable community will be at the heart of our exploration. Of particular importance will be the role of open space as a community asset in terms of providing places to gather and as critical components in restoring environmental systems in and around the project site.

A central feature of our site, the integration of which will be a significant subject of your design and planning strategies, will be a restored remnant wetland which has steadfastly survived decades of adjacent industrial activity. The City of Milwaukee has recently received a grant to hire a consultant to prepare a restoration plan for the wetland. This project is ongoing and scheduled to be completed this summer. The expectation is that this restored environmental feature, along with improved access to the harbor and river waterfronts, will not only provide critical benefits to the site in terms of water quality and habitat restoration for both flora and fauna, but will also become an amenity for the Grand Trunk site as it redevelops and for the adjoining Bayview neighborhoods as well. Access to natural features for urban dwellers, especially children, is a central concern in many cities especially those like Milwaukee that have an industrial heritage and in which natural lakefront and riverfront areas were radically transformed to maximize industrial use.



Project Site Area



Wetland Location (area H on plan)

Another central focus of our project will be how this revitalized waterfront area can support and enhance the continuing resurgence of the Bayview neighborhood to the immediate south of the Grand Trunk Site. Current land uses, street patterns, and building configurations effectively cut off the community from the harbor waterfront zones. We will examine and propose infill redevelopment within the critical interface area or "seam" between the residential neighborhoods and the Grand Trunk redevelopment area, centered along Bay Street and extending from the Bay Street/ Kinnickinnic Avenue intersection eastward to the I-794 interchange which includes the a proposed commuter rail station for the KRM rail project, which would extend METRA commuter rail service from Chicago to Milwaukee. We will plan for the integration of this station, for while this project is currently suspended as a result of efforts of the current governor of the State of Wisconsin, the project is of significant potential benefit for the community, and its implementation can still be considered a viable if long-term goal.

The semester will be structured around a series of projects that sequentially work together to build toward a comprehensive urban design solution. Planning students enrolled in the course will work in tandem with architectural students as concepts evolve and may elect to prepare physical design plans or to pursue research that relates to and expands broader based issues raised by design proposals. For example, for a final project planning students may wish to craft an implementation plan (e.g. form-based code, municipal regulations, etc.) for particular planning schemes as they emerge, prepare a real estate marketing analysis to test/support design proposals, or look at policy implications raised by the project on subjects such as environmental quality, brownfield revitalization strategies, and community health for example.

Further descriptive information on the projects will be given as they are individually distributed (see schedule below) but can generally be outlined as follows. Planning students will participate directly in the Urban Context Analysis and Case Study Project phases and develop individual study programs during the other project phases.

- An **Urban Context Analysis** (10% of grade) to investigate existing conditions on the Grand Trunk site itself (environmental, land uses, building conditions, access, connectivity, etc.) and regarding relationships to larger scale patterns with adjacent neighborhoods and regions as appropriate.
- A **Framework Plan,** (10% of grade) outlining a general organizational planning strategy for the site including street and block patterns, major public space locations and connections, suggested land uses, and major street cross sectional and plan characteristics
- A **Case Study Analysis** (10% of grade) examining similar projects, in order to create a resource of precedent data for class use, and to look for lessons learned that can be imparted to our design studies
- A **Master Development Plan**,(30% of grade) expanding on the Framework Plan, which will indicate potential building footprints and massing, open space development, representative public space character, and other design details.
- A **Public Place Design**,(40% of grade) in which a public place (or places) will be selected from each students master plan and designed in detail. This could be an element such as a significant park or plaza, a series of open spaces or corridors, a public structure such as an amphitheater, market place or other "parkachitecture", waterfront promenades, or streetscape elements. In addition, the Master Development Plan will be refined to incorporate design changes.

Project Supporting Background Data

Background data, including base maps, technical reports and planning studies, historical development patterns, and a wealth of other information is provided by the Institute for Ecological Design and is located on the network drive

Schedule

Outlined below is an overall schedule for the semester. As each project is distributed, further activities (lectures, discussions, guest presentations, etc.) will be provided.

DATE	ACTIVITY
1/22	Course introduction, assign Project 1: Urban Context Analysis (teams)
1/25	Class site visit
1/29	Desk crits/work time
2/1	**Project 1: Urban Context Analysis - Due**, presentations and discussion Assign Project 2: Framework Plan
2/5	Desk crits/work time
2/8	Desk crits/work time
2/12	Desk crits/work time
2/15	**Project 2: Framework Plan - Due,** presentations and discussion Assign Project 3: Case Study Analysis

2/19	Desk crits/work time
2/22	**Project 3: Case Study Analysis – Due,** presentations and discussion, Assign Project 4: Master Development Plan
2/26	Desk crits/work time
3/1	Desk crits/work time
3/5	Desk crits/work time
3/8	Class progress pin-up and discussion
3/12	Desk crits/work time
3/15	Desk crits/work time
3/19	Spring Break
3/22	Spring Break
3/26	Desk crits/work time
3/29	**Project 4: Master Development Plan - Due, Interim Jury Presentation**
4/2	Assign Project 5: Public Place Design, Final Assignment
4/5	Desk crits/work time
4/9	Desk crits/work time
4/12	Desk crits/work time
4/16	Class progress pin-up and discussion
4/19	Desk crits/work time
4/23	Desk crits/work time
4/26	Desk crits/work time
4/30	Desk crits/work time
5/3	Desk crits/work time
5/4-5/10	**Project 5 Due**, Date and Design Review to be determined

Academic Misconduct

The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of other's academic endeavors. Student academic misconduct procedures can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/acadAff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm