

## Syllabus

New York University  
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

P11.1620 (001)  
Fall 2005

**Introduction to Urban Design**  
Tuesday 8:10 - 9:50 pm      Room 806, Silver Center

Instructor

**C. Andrew Klamon**  
Email cak319@nyu.edu  
Tel. 315.884.8118

### Course Objective:

To introduce students to the issues associated to the design of cities. The point of view of the designer will be considered and will focus on issues to be solved and the methods of conceptualizing solutions (Drawing primarily). Analytic tools will be introduced to examine the city as artifact, with the intent of reading the urban fabric and as a synthetic device. Each class will conclude with a discussion of contemporary examples of the ideas inherent in the topics presented.

The practice of urban design is driven by aesthetic theories, design practices & technological innovations. Our investigation will also consider socioeconomic changes as we examine the larger cultural context in which to position the design of cities. The course will be organized topically but will also follow the historical development of cities.

Each lecture will be focused by both mode(s) of thought and the resulting artifacts, and will include a general discussion of the following:

- A) The broader cultural context
- B) Design history and theory, illustrated through built and paper examples of the city, the new town and the garden
- C) The issues of measure, narrative, place and technology as a way of understanding issues and differences in design theory and practice

### Syllabus:

The syllabus is large in order to provide students with a clear sense of the direction the course will take as well as additional bibliographical materials organized by weekly topic.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Class Participation (20%):

Students are expected to come to class having read the required material, finished the required assignments and ready to speak on the topic of the day. Students should be participatory in discussions with salient comments, questions and observations. Courtesy to fellow students and respect for their ideas is mandatory in discussions and presentations.

**Short Exercises (21%)**

Several short one-week exercises will be issued. These exercises will accompany the weekly reading and will/could contribute to the final paper & presentation. See Calendar for exercise dates.

**Paper (24%) & Presentation (5%)**

One long paper (15 pages double spaced, not including bibliography, notes appendices or images) will be issued in class week two. Topics, format & issues will be discussed at time of issue. There will also be a 7- 10 minute power point presentation to the class of your findings, see course schedule for presentation dates.

*Papers are due by class time on 8 Nov. 2005.*

**Exam (30%)**

Take Home exam issues on 6 December and Due 16 December.

**Grading**

Students must be in regular attendance and satisfactorily complete all examinations and other assignments. There are acceptable reasons for submitting an assignment late, and all that is required is some communication from the student to me informing me that such a situation has arisen. For those without acceptable reasons for submitting assignments late, the penalty will be 15% of the grade per day.

Grades are determined per Wagner's grading scale A/4.0, A-/3.7, B+/ 3.3, B/3.0, B-/2.7, C+/2.3, C/2.0, C-/1.7, F/0

- A      Excellent: Exceptional work and is unusually thorough, well reasoned and creative
- A-     Very Good: Very strong work, shows signs of creativity, is thorough and well reasoned.
- B+     Good: Sound work, well reasoned and thorough
- B      Adequate: Competent work even though some weaknesses are evident
- B-     Borderline: Weak work but meets the minimal expectations
- C+/-   Deficient: inadequate work below the minimal expectations
- F      Fail: Work fails to meet even minimal expectations

For further information see grading guidelines and processes on the Wagner web page

Academic Integrity is expected, for further information on policy and processes see <http://www.nyu.edu/wagner/current/policies/>

**Course Outline:**

Week		Topics	Readings & Homeworks
6-Sep	1	<b>Introduction to Urban Design</b> The classical ideal and the idea of the city	HW: Observe and Record Read Tab 1
13-Sep	2	<b>The beginning of the critical commentary</b>	HW: Map & Measure Read tab 2 <a href="#">Issue Term Paper</a>
<i>American Urban Foundations</i>			
20-Sep	3	<b>European settlements in the New World</b>	HW: Historical Patterns & Change Read tab 3
27-Sep	4	<b>Grand Urban visions</b> Re-imagining the city	HW: Urban Sequence Read tab 4 - Lessons of Rome
4-Oct	5	<b>Industrial Revolutions</b>	HW: Figure/Field Read tab 5
11-Oct	6	<b>The Romantic American Landscape</b> Gardens, Cemeteries, Parks & Suburbs	HW: Diagrams Read tab 6
18-Oct	7	<b>Modernism</b> European Socialism and American Pragmatism	HW: 3 D Models Read tab 7
<i>The Contemporary City</i>			
25-Oct	8	<b>Rethinking Modernism - part 1</b>	Read tab 8
1-Nov	9	<b>Rethinking Modernism -part 2</b>	Read tab 9
8-Nov	10	<b>Suburban ideals in the late 20C</b>	Read Tab 10 <b>Papers Due</b>
15-Nov	11	<b>Post Modern Ideas</b>	Read tab 11 <a href="#">Presentations</a>
22-Nov	12	<b>Public/Civic Art &amp; New Landscape Models</b>	Read tab 12 <a href="#">Presentations</a>
29-Nov	13	<b>The Global City &amp; New York</b>	<a href="#">Presentations</a>
6-Dec	14	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<a href="#">(Presentations if necessary)</a>
13-Dec	15	Thursday Class Schedule <b>Exam Review</b> Final Class	
<b>Final</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>Final Exams Due</b>

## Syllabus

### Background - Part 1

#### 1) **Introduction to Urban Design**

The Classical Ideal and the idea of the City

Issues                    The elements of a city - House, Market, Temple, Palace & Cemetery  
What is/makes place  
Concepts of landscape & the metaphor of the garden  
Types of Narratives  
Spatial ideas, systems of organization (political & technological),  
Methods of description (geo-metry)  
The origins of drawing and two modes of thinking  
                                 innovation/invention

Required  
Reading                Tab 1

Additional  
Resources            A.E J. Morris, The History of Urban Form Before The Industrial  
Revolutions.  
L. Benevelo, The City in History  
Gulio Argan, The Renaissance City  
Robin Evans, Translations from Drawing to Building and Other  
Essays

#### 2) **The Beginning of Critical Commentary**

Issues:                    Civic infrastructure  
Place and purpose  
Organic ideals  
  
Theory of the city- the early treaties  
Perspective and the Conceptual construct  
Reinterpretation of the grid  
Referential Narratives  
The economy of means - material and methods of construction

Required  
Reading                Tab 2

Additional  
Resources            George Collins, Camillo Sitte & the Birth of Modern  
City Planning  
Paul Zucker, Town & Square: Form the Agora to the Village Green

*Issue Term Paper*

## American Urban Foundations - Part 2

### 3) **European settlements in the new world**

Issues:	New towns and town plans Utopian ideas Democratic models The academic landscape - place making with landscape
Examples:	New Orleans, Savanna and Pennsylvania & others Venice, Palladio and London - a critical background Jefferson's landscape and the American campus
Required Reading	Tab 3
Additional Resources	John Repps "The Making of Urban America" Paul Venable Turner "Campus: An American Planning Tradition"

### 4) **Grand Urban Visions** Re-imagining the city

Issues:	Urban Narrative- post-facto overlay Contemporary infrastructure Monument & Memory Radial planning and topography The open vista vs. the spatial moment Sequence
Examples:	Baroque Narratives Rome (Sixtus the V)- villas Lante, Aldobrandini and Bormatzo Paris (Hausman and le Notre)- Vaux le Vitcome and Versailles American Civic models Washington DC Chicago and the White city City Beautiful Rockefeller Center
Required Reading	Tab 4
Additional Resources	Leon B. Noli, Map of Rome, 1754 Howard Saalman, Hausman: Paris Transformed

5) **Industrial Revolutions**

Issues: Speculative Development inside the city  
Issues of health and the city  
Replacement urban forms and the problem of growth  
Block size, street size and urban forms  
Figure/Field (thoughts of Nolie)

Examples: London - squares and parks  
New York - city squares, parks and canals  
The garden city movement  
  
The Galleria, The Arcade & The Train Station,  
The Factory and The Apartment Building

Required Reading Tab 5

Additional Resources Francois Choey, The Modern City: Planning in the 19th C.  
Camillo Sitte, City Planning According to Artistic Principles  
Rudolf Wittkower, Gothic Vs Classic: Architectural Projects in Seventeenth-Century Italy  
Stephen Holl, Pamphlet Architecture 1-10

6) **The Romantic American Landscape and its origins**

Issues: New landscape narrative  
Health - the city and the countryside  
Transformation of type - landscape

Examples: Stowe, Pierre la Chase, Mt. Auburn, city parks and early suburbs  
Riverside and a new narrative  
FIIW and Broad Acre City

Required Reading Tab 6

Additional Resources Robert A. M. Stern, The Angelo American Suburb  
Thomas Sharp, The Anatomy of the Village  
Frank Lloyd Wright, The Living City

7) **Modernism - European Socialism and American Pragmatism**

Issues:	Modern Theory New methods of production & its urban implication New Building types Tall buildings, High-rises & skyscrapers New Spatial Types The continuous ground plain Literal v. phenomenal
Examples:	Paris expo, the crystal palace The Chicago Frame, Rockefeller Center Levittown, Pullman Meis, Johnson & the international style Warsaw and Moscow Am. Public housing, Highway & suburbs Chandagar, Brasilia
Required Reading	Tab 7
Additional Resources	Le Corbusier, Toward a new Architecture Philip Johnson, The international style Ryner Banham, Theory and Design in the First Machine Age S. Gideon, Space Time and Architecture William Curtis, Modern Architecture Since 1900

The Contemporary City- Part 3

8) **Rethinking Modernism Part 1**

Issues:	Modern Theory Collage city - Rowe & Kotter Learning from Las Vegas - Venturi Design of Cities - Edmond Bacon
Examples:	Cornell Journal of Architecture #2 Venturi - Princeton buildings Philadelphia
Required Reading	Tab 8
Additional Resources	Cornell journal of Architecture #2 Colin Rowe & Fred Kotter, Collage City Learning from Las Vegas - Venturi Design of Cities - Edmond Bacon

9) **Rethinking Modernism Part 2**

Issue: Modern Theory  
Pattern & Type  
Spirit of Place  
Typology Vs Morphology

Examples: Rossi- Public housing Milan  
Modena Cemetery  
Yale - college  
Charles More

Required Reading Tab 9

Additional Resources Christian Norberg-Schulz: Genius Loci - Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture  
Aldo Rossi, The Architecture of the City  
Christopher Alexander, A Pattern Language  
Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City

10) **Suburban ideals in the late 20C**

Issues Transit oriented communities and its effect on building type  
Organizational set pieces  
Landscape  
The city edge  
Single use Zoning & Programmatic Urbanism

Examples: Columbia Maryland, Irvine California and Sea Ranch  
Seaside, Celebration and New Urbanism  
The American Mall and Tehran

Required Reading Tab 10

Additional Resources M. Jeffrey Hardwick, Mall Maker: Victor Gruen, Architect of an American Dream  
Joel Gareau, Edge Cities  
Frances Fitzgerald, Cities on a Hill  
Congress for the New Urbanism  
Herbert Gans, The Levittowners: Ways of Life and Politics in a New Suburban Community

*Term Paper Due*



11) **Post Modern Ideas**

Issue: Late 20th C. Theory

Emerging Narratives  
Deconstructionism  
Postmodernism

Examples: Frank Gehry- Loyola law school  
Las Vegas  
Koolhaas- the edigatorium, Seattle public library  
Tshumi, Park La Vilette and other entries

Required  
Reading Tab 11

Additional  
Resources Nan Ellen, Postmodern Urbanism  
Rem Koolhaas, Delirious New York  
Bernard Tshumi, The Manhattan Transcripts  
Jacques Derrida, Writing and Difference

**Student Presentations**

12) **Public Art/ Civic Art & New Landscape Models**

Issues: Landscape Urbanism  
Instrumental Landscape/ Buildings Ideas & the Ecology

Examples: The Getty, Candle Stick Park, Fresh Kills, and Downsview Park  
Public Art/Civic Art  
Brown fields and the American urban landscape

Required  
Reading Tab 12

Additional  
Resources Julia Czerniak, Case: Downsview Park Toronto  
Grosvner Mutton & William Morrish - Arizona examples  
Werner Hegmann & Elbert Peets, Handbook of Civic Art  
James Corner, Recovering Landscape: Essays in Contemporary  
Landscape Architecture

**Student Presentations**

13) **The Global City & New York**

Issues:           The City Today

Examples:       London - docklands and other adventurers  
                  Paris - Mitterrand and the socialist dialogue  
                  Beijing- ecology and history

**Student Presentations**

14) **Student Initiated Issues and Questions**

Student Presentations (if necessary)

15) **Exam Review**

16) **Final Exam**