

School of Community and Regional Planning • University of British Columbia  
**Plan 587B/E–Introductory Urban Design Studio**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-4:30pm • From after reading break to the end of Term 2**  
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Office hours by appointment



drawings and designs courtesy of Max Goldstein and Rob Bateman, Final Urban Design Projects

### **Description**

This is the second in a series of Urban Design studio courses offered at SCARP, and the first where students have the opportunity to participate in project-oriented urban design. The course will expose students to the skills and issues associated with planning practice in urban design. Concentrating on direct and indirect design techniques, students will undertake group and individual work leading to the production of both design proposals and urban design plan components.

Working on issues pertinent to local jurisdictions and usually with a client or client group, participants in the course will undertake context analysis, data collection, mapping, diagramming and spatial decision-making necessary for creating appropriate policies, guidelines and project designs. Students will be expected to engage in the professional discourse and skills of the urban design field, including: graphic presentation techniques, public presentation and communication methods, critique, and a variety of other analytical and observation methods.

### **Prerequisites**

Students enrolled in this course must have successfully completed PLAN 587A or must have prior experience in design and graphic representation to obtain the instructor's consent before registering.

### **Studio Project**

For this 6-week introductory studio, we will develop urban design and land use proposals for a community facing critical challenges. The project is selection explicitly seeks to provide students with a rich and dynamic real world case while simultaneously leveraging the creative energy of students towards an important social and/or environmental urban design objective. Students often work directly with a client or client group ranging from progressive developers to community organizations.

The class begins with individual assignments to focus on building individual skills and confidence and then transitions to group work to achieve high quality outputs. Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of design options for the public realm, land use and urban form. Several major presentations during the course of the studio including site analysis, master plans and neighbourhood plans are designed to provide students with ample opportunity to hone their graphic and verbal communication skills.

### Learning Objectives

The primary objective of the course is to introduce students to the urban design process from initial urban analysis through schematic design and presentation of land use and urban design drawings. Other objectives include:

1. Exposure and direct experience in basic design, communication and presentation techniques commonly used in the urban design field;
2. Development and use of basic spatial analysis methods, the synthesis of this material and its relation to urban design decision-making;
3. Understanding the rationales for both direct and indirect design at various geographic scales, along with knowledge of the components typically included in urban design plans;
4. Development of basic spatial critical thinking and the ability to articulate spatial systems thinking.

### Format

The studio will meet twice per week for 3 hours each session. We will meet collectively at the beginning of each day for brief lectures, course administration, explanation of exercises, and discussion of issues related to the projects. Various methods and techniques will be demonstrated and explained as needed throughout the course. As needed during the semester we will venture into the field for observation, mapping and site reconnaissance. On these days there is a strong likelihood the sessions may run longer than expected. Transportation options for fieldwork will be discussed in class. Students will also be expected to undertake group work in the field outside of class times.

Students will set up individual workspaces in the studio where they will be able to work on projects. Much of the course time each session will be used for group and one-on-one desk crits with the course instructor. Successful studio experience demands that students physically work in the studio outside of scheduled class time to enable collaborative work, allow for cross-fertilization of thinking and learning, and provide an outlet for constant feedback and input from peers.

### Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on their successful completion of course requirements similar to the ones described below. The final design deliverables vary depending on the emergent specific needs of the client group or community. Final project details will be made available on the first week of class.

<b>Systems Flows and Design Brief</b>	25%
Draft Brief	Draft Brief
Final Brief	Summary of goals of your design as well as the target figures for density, floor areas, population, number of jobs and energy and water strategy.
<b>Conceptual Design by Individual Students</b>	25%
	Draft Review of Master Plan
	Final Review of Master Plan, Systems and distribution, diagrams, 1:1000 Plan, 3-D views, Site Sections
<b>Final Design in Groups</b>	
	Draft Review of Group Master Plan 15%
	Final Review of Group Master Plan 35%

Students will be provided with a marking rubric explicitly outlining the categories and criteria upon which they will be graded. The instructor will additionally focus on mentoring, and will seek evidence of, the following general principles:

<b>Creativity</b>	evidence of imaginative thinking and innovative problem solving
<b>Critical thinking</b>	evidence of deep thinking and analysis about a project, design or drawing
<b>Industriousness</b>	evidence of effort and efficiency in terms of how productive you are in the time available relative to your skill level
<b>Professionalism</b>	neatness, precision, attention to detail and attractiveness of your presentation

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be deducted **3%** of your final grade/day up to a maximum of two days. Assignments more than two days late will receive no credit. In the event of an emergency please contact the instructor as soon as possible to notify him of your intended absence.

### **Class Participation**

Students are expected to attend every studio session. Missing a studio session will result in an automatic **3%** reduction in your overall grade. During studio you are expected to participate in discussions and reviews of each other's work, and to conduct yourselves in a courteous and professional manner. You are expected to be critical yet respectful and supportive in your engagement of each other's work. You are expected to be attentive to whoever is speaking whether we are in studio or out of the studio touring or on a professional visit.

### **Required Equipment**

Students will be required to supply individual drafting tools (eg, adjustable triangles, compasses, templates), drawing materials (eg, pens, papers, erasers, sharpeners, colored pencils, drafting tape), presentation materials (eg, sticky-back adhesive, photo copying, markers) and fieldwork materials (eg, photography, sketchbooks, etc). Students can expect to spend about \$75 on tools and materials and anywhere from \$50 - \$100 on reproduction costs.

Students wishing to work digitally will be encouraged to do so. Computing program teaching modules will be offered as needed for coursework. Students are encouraged to supply their own computer to facilitate their development in digital design.

### **Urban Design Computing Lab**

A small 6-screen computer lab is available in the studio classroom for those students enrolled in the course. A \$120 lab fee is required of all students enrolled in this course to cover the costs of printing and computer maintenance.

### **Readings and Handouts**

Students will be expected to generate their own reference lists based on their team's precedent studies and urban systems analysis. Additional readings may be distributed during the semester as required.

### **Studio Culture**

Above all be sensitive to and respectful of each other's comfort levels in studio. While spending time in the studio can be a celebratory, collaborative and joyful experience, it must also be a safe and respectful one. At times you will want to be loud and animated and other times you will want to be quiet and focused. Please be sensitive to the mental space of your colleagues. Offensive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

**Studio Guidelines**

The space and furnishings provided for urban design students are expensive and difficult to replace. Please treat all furnishings and equipment with care. The kitchenette facility is provided for your convenience and is not an invitation to treat the studio as a cafeteria. Please keep all food material away from your studio desks and protect your drawings and drawing boards from crumbs and liquid spills. Absolutely no food or drinks are allowed in the urban design computer lab and no alcoholic beverages are to be consumed anywhere in the urban design studio.

**Academic Integrity**

The University is an environment that fosters learning and the free exchange of ideas while maintaining responsibility and integrity. Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to plagiarism, cheating, dishonesty, fabrication of information, submitting previously completed work and misusing or destroying school property. Any material or ideas obtained from digital or physical sources must be appropriately referenced.

**Special Needs**

Please inform the instructor right away if you have special needs and require accommodation of any kind. Please visit <http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/> for more information on campus resources.

**Supplemental Resources**

UBC has numerous research, pedagogical and health resources available to students. These include The centre for Teaching and Academic Growth (TAG), the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, and the Writing Centre. Please make use of these resources or contact the instructor if you have any questions.