

CY PLAN 140: Urban Design: City-Building and Place-Making
Course Description and Schedule

CCN:	13658	Professor:	Elizabeth Macdonald
Lecture Time:	Friday, 10-1	Office:	406B Wurster Hall
Lecture Room:	106 Wurster	Phone:	510-643-3765
Units:	3	e-mail:	emacdon@berkeley.edu
		Office Hours:	Wednesday, 10-11:40
		On-line Sign-up:	http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/pfdkg
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This course introduces students to the field and practice of urban design. The objective is to provide a foundation for understanding the various dimensions of urban design, the role of urban design within development processes, and key issues and challenges facing urban designers today. Learning about cities via fieldwork is an integral part of the course.

The concerns of urban design are diverse and multidisciplinary, encompassing perspectives, skills, and theories from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning. Urban designers work at a range of scales—region, city, neighborhood, and lot—and are concerned with the interrelationships between scales. They deal with large-scale citywide design issues, such as city pattern and street and block layouts, but also with smaller scale local issues such as designs for streets and public open spaces. Urban designers may work to shape the form of specific places within cities, such as downtowns, shopping areas, cultural precincts, or they may design citywide systems such as streets, greenways, and public open space systems. They may design small infill projects for existing cities and neighborhoods, or they may design large-scale master plans or framework plans to control development at the metropolitan edge or on large parcels within existing cities being redeveloped for different uses.

The discipline of urban design is concerned with notions of the “good city.” It is concerned with how urban environments work for people and support human needs, how physical designs may facilitate or hinder human behavior, how cities look, and what cities mean. It is concerned foremost with environmental quality, measured in many ways but particularly in terms of access, connectivity, comfort, legibility, and sense of place.

Learning Objectives of the Course:

To give students an understanding of human settlement as it relates to planning and urban design based on knowledge of the relevant concepts and theories from the design arts (architecture, landscape architecture, urban design) including knowledge about the relationship between the design of the built environment and its functional, aesthetic and social precedents and consequences.

To give students an understanding of historical and contemporary urban design practice, policy and processes based on knowledge of the relevant concepts and theories pertaining to the adoption, administration and implementation of plans and related policy including knowledge of the relevant regulations (zoning, review processes), incentives, techniques, and agencies conducting planning and urban design.

To give students and introduction to some of the skills needed to practice urban design in a variety of venues in ways consistent with the ethical norms for the planning field, including use of empirical observation to analyze the physical characteristics of environments and relationships between environments, perception, and behavior; use of written and graphic skills to compose clear, accurate and compelling text and drawings in documents;

To give students an understanding of the different values and ethical standards affecting the practice of urban design, demonstrating knowledge for comprehending and discriminating among the goals that an individual, group, community and organization holds when considering the future, including the values of justice, equity, fairness, efficiency, order and beauty.

Required Readings and Class Preparation:

There are required readings for most weeks. Readings come from a Course Reader (available at University Copy, located 1/2 block west of Telegraph, in the mid-block passage between Durant and Channing) and from the following required textbooks (available at the ASUC bookstore and on reserve at the CED library):

- Carmona, M., Heath, T., Oc, T., Tiesdell, S. (2010) *Public Places, Urban Spaces: The Dimensions of Urban Design*
- Larice, M, and Macdonald, E. (2007) *The Urban Design Reader*

Grading (Points will be taken off for late assignments except in the case of illness or a family emergency, in which case the professor should be notified in advance.)

Assignment #1: Reading the City (25%)

Assignment #2: Neighborhood Street Analysis (25%)

Assignment #3: Urban Design Sketchbook (25%)

Final Exam (25%)

Class Schedule

F Aug 24 **Introductions/The Course/Class Logistics/The Urban Design Field and Inter-Related Scales of Design**

Required Reading:

- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 1: Urban Design Today,” and “Chapter 2: Urban Change”
- **The Urban Design Reader:** Jane Jacobs, “Introduction,” and “The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact,” p. 80-92; Allan B. Jacobs and Donald Appleyard, “Toward an Urban Design Manifesto,” p. 98-108;

Suggested Additional Reading:

- **The Urban Design Reader:** Christopher Alexander, “The Timeless Way,” p. 93-97; Kevin Lynch, “Dimensions of Performance,” p. 109-114.

F Aug 31 **Ideas of Good Cities, Current Contexts for Urban Design**

Required Reading:

- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 3: Contexts for Urban Design”
- **The Urban Design Reader:** Clarence Perry, “The Neighborhood Unit,” p. 54-65; Oliver Gillham, “What is Sprawl?” p. 287-307; Congress for the New Urbanism, “Charter of the New Urbanism,” p. 308-311;

Suggested Additional Reading:

- **The Urban Design Reader:** Hildebrand Frey, “Compact, Decentralised or What” The Sustainable City Debate,” p. 328-343.

F Sept 7 **Class Field Trip #1: Mission Neighborhood Walk**

Meet in San Francisco at the corner of 24th Street and Bartlett Street, in front of the public library, at 10:30 a.m. Take BART to the 24th Street station, at street level walk two blocks north on 24th Street.

Required Reading:

- **Course Reader:** Jacobs, A.B. 1985. *Looking at Cities*, “Chapter 1: Starting to Look” and “Chapter 3: Clues”

F Sept 14 **Morphological Dimensions of Urban Design Place-Making: Urban Form and Space**

Required Reading:

- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 4: The Morphological Dimension”
- **The Urban Design Reader:** Leon Krier, “Critiques,” and “Urban Components,” p. 231-250; Anne Vernez Moudon, “Getting to Know the Built Landscape: Typomorphology,” p. 256-281

- F Sept 21** **Perceptual and Visual Dimensions of Urban Design Place-Making: Imageability, Sense of Place, Aesthetics, and Kinaesthetics**
Required Reading:
- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 5: The Perceptual Dimension” and “Chapter 7: The Visual Dimension”
 - **The Urban Design Reader:** Kevin Lynch, “The Image of the Environment” and “The City Image and Its Elements,” p. 153-166; Gordon Cullen, “Introduction to the Concise Townscape,” p. 167-173.

- F Sept 28** **Class Field Trip #2: Golden Gateway/North Beach Walk**
Meet in San Francisco at the Embarcadero Plaza (in front of the Ferry Building, in the middle of the Embarcadero roadway), at 10:30 a.m. Take BART to the Embarcadero station, at street level walk one block north (toward the water) on Market Street.
Required Reading:
- **Course Reader:** Jacobs, A.B. 1985. *Looking at Cities*, “Chapter 5: Seeing Change”
 - **The Urban Design Reader:** Allan B. Jacobs, “Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning,” p. 387-390; David Sucher, “Getting Around,” p. 391-404; Metro Portland, “Green Streets,” p. 405-424.

DUE: Assignment #1: Reading the City

Start Assignment #2: Neighborhood Street Analysis

- F Oct 5** **Social Dimensions of Urban Design Place-Making: The Public Realm & Neighborhoods**
Required Reading:
- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 6: The Social Dimension”
 - **The Urban Design Reader:** Ray Oldenburg, “The Problem of Place in America,” p. 138-148; Jan Gehl, “Three Types of Outdoor Activities,” and “Life Between Buildings,” p. 364-370; William H. Whyte, “Introduction,” “The Life of Plazas,” “Sitting Space,” and “Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water,” p. 348-363; Clare Cooper Marcus and Carolyn Francis, “Urban Plazas,” p. 371-375; Randy Hester, “Neighborhood Space,” p. 376-386.

- F Oct 12** **Functional and Temporal Dimensions of Urban Design Place-Making: Density and Land Use, Change and Continuity**
Required Reading:
- **Public Places/Urban Spaces:** “Chapter 8: The Functional Dimension,” and “Chapter 9: The Temporal Dimension”

- ***The Urban Design Reader:*** Eduardo Lozano, “Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity,” p. 312-327.

F Oct 19

Class Field Trip #3: Octavia Boulevard/Hayes Valley Walk

Meet in San Francisco at the corner of Octavia Boulevard and Market Street at 10:30 a.m. To reach Octavia and Market, take BART to the Civic Center station, go up to street level, and walk several blocks south (toward the hills, away from the water) on Market Street.

Required Reading:

- ***Course Reader:*** Macdonald, E. 2006 “Building a Boulevard; Macdonald, E. 2003 “The Multiway Boulevard.”

F Oct 26

Urban Design in the Development Process/Public Sector Urban Design

Required Reading:

- ***Public Places/Urban Spaces:*** “Chapter 10: The Development Process” and “Chapter 11: The Control Process”
- ***The Urban Design Reader:*** Jon Lang, “Urban Design as a Discipline and as a Profession,” p. 461-478; and John Punter, “Design Guidelines in American Cities: Conclusions,” p. 500-516.

Suggested Additional Reading:

- ***Public Places/Urban Spaces:*** Re-read “Chapter 3: Contexts for Urban Design,” p. 45-54 (i.e. The Market Context and The Regulatory Context sections).

DUE: Assignment #2: Neighborhood Street Analysis

Start Assignment #3: Urban Design Sketchbook

F Nov 2

Class Field Trip #4: San Francisco Planning Department

Meet in San Francisco at 10:45 a.m., at the San Francisco Planning Department’s office, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400. To get there, take BART to the Civic Street station; at street level walk southwest on Market Street 3 or so blocks; go south on Van Ness Avenue for 1 block; turn right on Mission Street and walk a half a block.

Required Reading:

- ***Course Reader:*** Macdonald, E. “Street-Facing Dwelling Units and Livability: The Impacts of Emerging Building Types in Vancouver’s New High-Density Residential Neighborhoods,” *Journal of Urban Design* 10:1 (2005): 13-38.

- F Nov 9** **Public Sector Urban Design**
Required Reading:
- ***The Urban Design Reader:*** Jon Lang, “Urban Design as a Discipline and as a Profession,” p. 461-478; and John Punter, “Design Guidelines in American Cities: Conclusions,” p. 500-516.
- F Nov 16** **Class Field Trip #5: *Union Square Walk***
Meet in San Francisco at the southwest corner of Union Square, which is at the intersection of Powell and Geary street. To reach Union Square, take BART to the Powell Street station; at street level walk north on Powell Street for three blocks.
- Required Reading:
- ***Course Reader:*** Jacobs, A.B. 1985. *Looking at Cities*, “Chapter 7: Looking Back”
- F Nov 23** **Thanksgiving Day Holiday – No class**
- F Nov 30** **Urban Design Communication/Challenges and Opportunities for Today’s Urban Design Practice**
Required Reading:
- ***Public Places/Urban Spaces:*** “Chapter 12: The Communication Process,” and “Chapter 13: Holistic Urban Design”
- DUE: Assignment #3: Urban Design Sketchbook**
- M Dec 10** **Final Exam, 8-11 a.m.**