



## Tokyo+Seoul: City, Streets, & Hybrid Urbanism

**INFORMATION PACKET | UW Exploration Seminar, August 25 to September 14, 2008**

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UW Exploration Seminar is a 3-4 week, 5-credit early fall study program that takes you off campus and out of the country for a unique learning experience.

### OVERVIEW

Dense, compact, hybrid and dynamic are words often used in characterizing the urban landscapes of Asian cities. The fluid matrix of social life, urban spaces, and mass transportation along with proximity of activities and services clearly distinguishes the landscapes of major Asian cities from their North American counterparts. The dynamism of Asian cities is best experienced in the streets where one can observe the complex juxtaposition of social and economic activities and the rich overlays of large and small, formal and informal, public and private, in a constant state of flux.

This traveling seminar will use the streetscapes of Seoul and Tokyo as the medium for understanding the complex urbanism in the two major Asian cities. Specifically, we will investigate how the streetscapes in Seoul and Tokyo support the everyday life of their millions of residents and workers; how they reflect their respective urban culture; and how they act as a connective tissue in the complex urban systems. We will experience the city from the street level and taste its flavor from the street vendors. The field experience will enable us to critique the contemporary paradigm of urban planning and design.

Daily activities include walking tours, guest presentations, on-site exercises, and independent projects. This course will use "mapping" as a primary tool of investigation in the field. The program will spend first 10 days in Seoul followed by 11 days in Tokyo. Participants will earn 5 credits of L ARCH 495 Landscape Architecture Studies Abroad, or CHID 471 Asia Study Abroad. Credits for other courses can also be arranged. Participants should check with their advisors to determine how these credits can count towards their individual departmental requirements.

The course is open to all students. For preparation, students are encouraged to take L ARCH 498D Asian Cities seminar, offered in spring 2008 and cross-listed with the Departments of Architecture and Urban Design and Planning.

### COST

Students are required to pay a \$2,575 Program fee (covering both the program costs and lodging) and \$200 IPE Fee. Additional costs for students include round trip travel to Tokyo and Seoul, health insurance, meals, course materials, group transportation, and other personal expenses. Essential personal expense including meals is about \$450 per students. Students are required to arrange for their own travel to Seoul, Tokyo, and back to the United States. Round-trip airfare between Seattle and Seoul with a stopover in Tokyo costs about \$1200 to \$1500 in summer. Students may be able to get discount through travel agencies specializing in student travel. For more information, visit: <http://www.statravel.com/>.

The total estimated cost per student is \$4975.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The UW Exploration Seminar website contains detailed information on available financial aids: <http://depts.washington.edu/explore/forstudents/financialaid.htm>. Additional information is available from International Program and Exchange: <http://www.ipe.washington.edu/domestic/fiscalfaq.html>. Landscape architecture students are encouraged to apply for departmental scholarships: <http://www.caup.washington.edu/larch/Admissions/scholarships.php>. Other scholarship sources include the Sigma Lambda Alpha Travel Grant <http://www.achsnaatl.org/society.asp?society=sla> and the Landscape Architecture Foundation <http://www.lafoundation.org/Scholarships.htm>, and Freeman Award for Study in Asia (for undergrads; deadline March 7, 2007) <http://www.iie.org/programs/Freeman%2DASIA/default.shtm>, and the Chester Fritz Grants for International Study and Exchanges [http://www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/Fritz\\_fellowship\\_page.htm](http://www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/Fritz_fellowship_page.htm).

Please contact your own department for information on additional financial resources.

## ACCOMMODATION

Students and faculty will be staying in dormitory-like facilities in Seoul and Tokyo. In Tokyo, we will be staying at the [Yoyogi National Youth Center](#). Located near Shinjuku with easy access to the subway system, this popular, renovated facility was once part of the Olympic Village. The hotel-like facility has in-house restaurants, cafes, and conference rooms that serve a wide variety of educational activities. In Seoul, we will either stay at a centrally located hostel or university facility. Students will be staying in shared and individual rooms. Costs for accommodations are covered in the program fee.

## TRANSPORTATION

Students are responsible for the costs of air and ground travel. Both Seoul and Tokyo have walkable streetscapes and highly efficient and modernized public transportation systems. We will spend a great deal of time walking and taking trains and subways. Bring comfortable footwear.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Your passport must be valid for the entire period you expect to be outside the US, plus an extra six months beyond that. If you don't have one already, apply for one NOW through the U.S. passport office. It can take up to 2 months for a passport to be processed so don't wait until the last minute. For non-U.S. citizens, valid passports are required. In addition, please check the following links for possible visa requirements –

- Embassy of Japan -- [http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/travel\\_and\\_visa/visa/index.htm](http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/travel_and_visa/visa/index.htm)
- Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the USA -- <http://www.dynamic-korea.com/>

## CLIMATE

Summer is hot and humid in Tokyo and Seoul although it is considerably moderate compared with other Asian cities. August is the hottest time of the year in Seoul and Tokyo with the average temperature of 72 °F to 86 °F in Seoul and 87°F in Tokyo.

## LANGUAGES

Understanding of Korean or Japanese will be helpful but not required for taking the seminar. Both Tokyo and Seoul have adequate English signs for foreign tourists especially in major public areas.

## CULTURES

While Tokyo and Seoul have both become globalized cities, local cultures are still alive and well. Be prepared for etiquettes in eating, public manners and other cultural nuances. Be ready to also experience a variety of exciting urban subcultures. Suggested references include Culture Shock, Japan and Culture Sock Korea.

## TELECOMMUNICATION

You can stay in touch with your family and friends in the U.S. via the Internet and international phone cards. Unfortunately, U.S. cell phones cannot be used in Japan and S. Korea. Instead, you may rent mobile phones at airport at a reasonable price.

## ADDITIONAL TRAVEL

There will be free time during the trip for you to explore the cities on your own (and do some shopping). You may also want to arrive in Seoul earlier and travel in Japan after the seminar to explore the countries following the seminar. Here are some links for additional travel information in Taiwan and Japan.

*South Korea travel info:* [Official Korea Tourism Guide](#), [Lonely Planet](#), [Wikitravel](#), [US State Department](#)

*Japan travel info:* [Japan Travel](#), [Lonely Planet: Japan](#), [Wikitravel: Japan](#), [US State Department](#)

## SCHEDULE (August 25 to September 14)

The course will spend the first 10 days in Seoul starting on August 25. This will be followed by 11 days in Tokyo, ending on September 14. A more detailed schedule and itinerary will be available before the seminar.

## APPLICATION

There is no formal prerequisite for the course in terms of language skills and major of studies. The course is designed for both majors and non-majors. Instructions will be in English. There will be Korean and Japanese-speaking local coordinators who will provide language assistance throughout the seminar.

**Application deadline: March 7, 2008.** Payment of \$350 non-refundable deposit: May 2, 2008; first payment of program fee (\$500): June 6, 2008; payment of remaining program fee: October 10, 2008; withdraw: June 8, 2008 to avoid any payment beyond deposit. See the [Exploration Seminar](#) website for more information.

**Enrollment is limited. Apply early to secure your place.**

## FACULTY

[Jeff Hou](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at UW where he teaches urban design and community design. His research and practice focuses on cross-cultural dimensions of urban design and the engagement of marginalized communities in the design and planning of urban landscapes. Since 2003, he has conducted several cross-cultural design studios and field courses, bringing students to work with local students and communities in China, Japan and Taiwan, including the Taipei/Tokyo Exploration Seminar in 2007. He is a co-founder of the [Pacific Rim Community Design Network](#)—a group of scholars/activists in the Pacific Rim countries with shared interests and commitment in democratic design and environmental justice. Jeff received his PhD in Environmental Planning (2001) and M.Arch (1994) from University of California, Berkeley, a MLA (1993) from University of Pennsylvania, and a B.Arch (1990) from Cooper Union.

## READINGS

There is a growing body of literature on cities, urban landscapes and urban culture in Asia. Here is a brief list of references, some of which we use as readings for the course.

Boyersky, Nicholas and Peter Lang, eds. *Urban Flashes Asia: New Architecture and Urbanism in Asia*. *Architectural Design* 73(5)  
Kajijima, Momoyo, Junzo Kuroda, and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto. 2001. *Made In Tokyo*. Tokyo: Kajima Institute Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Marshall, Richard. 2003. *Emerging Urbanity: Global Urban Projects in the Asia Pacific Rim*. London; New York: Spon Press.  
Rowe, Peter. 2005. *East Asia Modern: Shaping the Contemporary City*. London: Reaktion Books.  
Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.  
Kim, Won Bae, Mike Douglass, Sang-Chuel Choe, and Kong Chong Ho, eds. 1997. *Culture and the City in East Asia*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.