

# CITYSCAPE & CITY DESIGN

L ARCH 362A/598E/ Winter 2013/ Gould 435/ University of Washington

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**Course website/** <http://courses.washington.edu/citydsgn/>

City design today is faced with increasingly complex challenges, ranging from climate and economic changes to growing diversity and migration of people. An investigation of such complexity should address not only site-scale design issues but also the broader environmental, social, and political forces and processes that shape urban spaces, ecology, and experiences. This course examines the multiple and often competing forces that influence the making of contemporary cities. For students in Landscape Architecture, this course builds on the materials introduced in LARC 341 Site Planning, LARC 361 Human Experience of Landscape to examine the forces that influence the making of urban landscapes. For non-majors, this course provides an introduction to the multiple dimensions of city design and urban placemaking.

As a survey of the field, this course investigates different paradigms and visions of cities, contested meanings and understandings of urban space, the social and political processes of placemaking, and the everyday experiences and imaginaries. It sees the urban environment, or *cityscape*, as a continuum of ideas, movements, processes, and change. Furthermore, it questions the conventional notion of design and examines a wider repertoire of spatial practices. Cases around the world including North America, Asia, Europe and Latin America are introduced to contrast and compare design practices and cultural contexts. While exploring the broader processes of city making, the course also explores specific design strategies and tactics that could begin to negotiate the competing social and spatial forces in the contemporary urban environment.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES/

- Examine competing paradigms and discourses of city design.
- Develop critical understanding of the processes of urban change in contemporary cities.
- Explore design strategies and spatial practices based on understanding of the complexity of urban landscape.

## COURSE THEMES/

- **City with a View** – overview of major discourses and frameworks for understanding the making of urban landscapes
- **City Nature(s)** – examine social and political dimensions of ‘nature’ in urban landscapes
- **City in Flux** – examine local and transnational processes of urban change in contemporary cities
- **City by Citizens** – examine the discourse and practice of community design in urban neighborhoods
- **City in the Making** – explore design strategies, processes, and spatial practices in response to the complexity of today’s cities

## **ASSIGNMENTS + GRADES\*/** (see additional handouts for detailed instructions)

**1. Photo Diary: Shared City (20%)** As a group of 2-3 individuals, produce 4-8 photographic images that document the group's finding and observation of "City Sharing" in the Seattle metro area (see handout). Write a 300-word statement that articulates your observations and provides information about the site (if appropriate) (including location, time of observation and other pertinent information). Submit your work to the course blog (TBA). See handout for more instructions. Due January 24, 2013. (For examples from previous years, see the course website).

**2. Critical Inquiry & Class Participation: (20%)** Submit one or two questions or response (no more than 100 words) based weekly reading assignment. Formulate your questions thoughtfully based on a critical reading of the articles. For students in L ARCH 362, post your questions on **GoPost** by Tuesday of each week for the readings of that week. You are encouraged to respond to each other's posts. Students in L ARCH 598B are required to attend the weekly discussion sessions, and are expected to bring their questions to class and participate actively in the discussion.

**3. Case Study Proposal: (20%)** In a one-page proposal, describe a case of "shared city" that you plan to examine for your class project. Your case study can be of a site (or series of sites), a project, activities, a phenomenon, or an issue/theme (preferably in Seattle) and can build on your work from the Photo Diary assignment. Alternatively, you may also propose to undertake an act of City Sharing. Include information such as location(s), actors/instigators, and (expected) outcomes, and briefly state why this case is important based on specific readings from the course. Due February 7, 2013.

**4. Case-Study Report: (40%)** Submit a full-length report (1000 to 1500 words) that describes in details the background, location, actors, and outcomes of the case/act as well as its implication for the design of cities. In addition, include your reflections on how the case demonstrates aspects of materials introduced in class lectures and/or readings. Make references to specific readings to address the context and issues. Due March 18, 2013.

*\*All assignments have to be submitted through **Collect-It** (go to the course website and follow the link to the drop box). All work must be submitted by 5pm of the due dates when the Catalyst system will be closed. Late submission of assignments is subject to reduction of grades.*

## **READINGS/**

Each lecture has a set of required readings that introduce concepts to be discussed in class. You are required to complete the readings before the class (see the schedule below). The readings are available through UW Library's electronic course reserves -- <https://eres.lib.washington.edu/eres/coursepass.aspx?cid=6835>.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION/**

The class will largely follow the format of slide show and discussion. In-class questions and reflections are also strongly encouraged.

**SCHEDULE/ (Tu/Th 10:30 to 11:50 am) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

| <b>Wk</b>               | <b>Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>                                                | <b>Readings</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>City with a View</b> |             |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1</b>                | 1/8<br>Tu   | <b>Course Overview</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                         | 1/10<br>Th  | <b>Discourses:</b><br>Cities as Ideas & Movements           | Hall, Peter. 1996. The City of Dreadful Night. In <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> .<br>Platt, Rutherford H. 1994. From Commons to Commons: Evolving Concepts of Open Space in North American Cities. In <i>The Ecological City</i> .         |
| <b>2</b>                | 1/15<br>Tu  | <b>Politics:</b><br>Cities as Contested Terrain             | Davis, Mike. 1992. Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> .<br>Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia and Tridib Banerjee. 1998. Postmodern Urban Form. In <i>Urban Design Downtown</i> . |
|                         | 1/17<br>Th  | <b>Poetics:</b><br>Whole Cities, Everyday Urbanism          | Jacobs, Jane. 1992. <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i> . (Excerpt)<br>Crawford, Margaret. 1999. Introduction. In <i>Everyday Urbanism</i> .                                                                            |
| <b>City Nature(s)</b>   |             |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>3</b>                | 1/22<br>Tu  | <b>No Class/ Workday</b>                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                         | 1/24<br>Th  | <b>City Natures</b><br><i>Photo Diaries due</i>             | Spirn, Ann Winston. 2011. Ecological Urbanism. In <i>Companion to Urban Design</i> .<br>Corner, James. 1997. Ecology and Landscape as Agents of Creativity. In <i>Ecological Design and Planning</i> .                                 |
| <b>4</b>                | 1/29<br>Tu  | <b>Post-industrial Nature</b>                               | Berger, Alan. 2006. <i>Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America</i> . (Excerpt)<br>Krinke, Rebecca. 2001. Overview: design practice and manufactured sites. In <i>Manufactured Site: Rethinking the Post-industrial Landscape</i> .    |
|                         | 1/31<br>Th  | <b>Landscape Urbanism</b>                                   | Waldheim, C. 2006. Landscape as Urbanism, In <i>The Landscape Urbanism Reader</i> .<br>Corner, James. 2006. Terra Fluxus. In <i>The Landscape Urbanism Reader</i> .                                                                    |
| <b>City in Flux</b>     |             |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>5</b>                | 2/5<br>Tu   | <b>Theme Cities:</b><br>Overview                            | Sorkin, Michael. 1992. Introduction: Variations on A Theme Park. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> .<br>Zukin, Sharon. 2002. From Landscape of Power: From Detroit to Disney World. In <i>The Blackwell City Reader</i> .           |
|                         | 2/7<br>Th   | <b>Globalizing Cities</b><br><i>Case Study Proposal Due</i> | Sassen, Saskia. 2001. <i>The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo</i> . Second Edition. (Excerpt)<br>Campanella, Thomas. 2008. <i>The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World</i> . (Excerpt)        |

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|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6                         | 2/12<br>Tu | <b>Disappearing Cities</b>          | Hayden, Dolores. 1997. Urban Landscape as Public History. In <i>Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design</i> .<br><br>Boyer, Christine. 1992. City for Sale: Merchandising History at South Street. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> .                                                                                                                      |
|                           | 2/14<br>Th | <b>Transcultural Cities</b>         | Sandercock, Leonie. 1998. <i>Towards Cosmopolis</i> . (Excerpts)<br><br>Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia. 1995. Urban Form and Social Context: Cultural Differentiation in the Use of Urban Parks. In <i>Journal of Planning Education &amp; Research</i> .                                                                                                                    |
| <b>City by Citizens</b>   |            |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 7                         | 2/19<br>Tu | <b>Citizen Design</b>               | Hester, Randolph T. 1999. A Refrain with a View, <i>Places</i> 12(2).<br><br>Hou, Jeffrey. 2010. Citizen Design: Participation and Beyond. In <i>Companion to Urban Design</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                           | 2/21<br>Th | <b>Community-driven Placemaking</b> | Francis, Mark. 1999. "Proactive Practice: Visionary Thought and Participatory Action in Environmental Design," <i>Places</i> 12(2)<br><br>Hou, Jeffrey and Michael Rios. 2003. Community-driven Placemaking: the Social Practice of Participatory Design in the Making of Union Point Park. <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i> , 57 (1)                             |
| 8                         | 2/26<br>Tu | <b>Engaging Multiple Publics</b>    | Hou, Jeffrey and Isami Kinoshita. 2007. Bridging Community Differences through Informal Processes: Reexamining Participatory Planning in Seattle and Matsudo. <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i> , 26(3)<br><br>Hou, Jeffrey. 2011. Differences Matters: Learning to Design in Partnership with Others. In <i>Service-learning in Design and Planning</i> . |
|                           | 2/28<br>Th | <b>Insurgent/Shared City</b>        | Mitchell, Don. 2003. <i>The Right to the City</i> . (Excerpt)<br><br>Hou, Jeffrey. 2010. (Not) your everyday public space. In <i>Insurgent Public Space: Guerrilla Urbanism and the Remaking of Contemporary Cities</i> .                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>City in the Making</b> |            |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9                         | 3/5<br>Tu  | <b>Projects &amp; Processes</b>     | Alexander, C., et al. 1987. <i>A New Theory of Urban Design</i> . (Excerpt)<br><br>Wall, Alex. 1999. Programming the Urban Surfaces. In <i>Recovering Landscape</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                           | 3/7<br>Th  | <b>Urban Narratives</b>             | Potteiger, Matthew and Jamie Purinton. 2002. Landscape Narratives (1998). In <i>Theory in Landscape Architecture</i> .<br><br>Hayden, Dolores. 1995. <i>The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History</i> . Chapter 10, Storytelling with the Shapes of Time.                                                                                                     |
| 10                        | 3/11<br>Tu | <b>Event Cities</b>                 | Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. 1999. "Performing the City: Reflections on the Urban Vernacular." In <i>Everyday Urbanism</i> .<br><br>Franck, Karen A. and Quentin Stevens. 2007. Tying Down Loose Space. In <i>Loose Space</i> .                                                                                                                                         |
|                           | 3/14<br>Th | <b>Review</b>                       | Calvino, Italo. 1974. <i>Invisible Cities</i> . (Excerpts)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |