

Urban Landscapes: Discourses / Politics / Poetics

L ARCH 362/598B/ Winter 2009/ University of Washington/

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(sign-up sheet posted in Gould 348)

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Course website/ <http://courses.washington.edu/urbanla/>

The practice of urban design is faced with increasing complexity in the urban environment. An investigation of the complexity should address not only site-scale design issues but also the broader processes that shape urban spaces, experiences, and discourses. This course builds on the materials introduced in LARC 341 Site Planning, LARC 361 Human Experience of Landscape to examine the multiple and competing forces that influence the making of urban landscapes. It addresses urban design from a landscape perspective that sees the urban environment as a continuum of movements, processes, and change. In examining the multiple forces shaping urban forms and processes, it investigates different paradigms and visions of cities, contestations of meanings and understandings, the social and political process of placemaking, and phenomenology and imaginaries of urban space. Cases around the world from the U.S., Pacific Rim, Europe and Latin America are introduced to contrast and compare design practice with the everyday realities of urban landscape. While exploring the broader contexts of urban processes, the course also explores specific design strategies and devices that could begin to negotiate the competing social and spatial forces in urban landscapes.

Course Objectives/

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

Course Themes/

- **Overview and Frameworks** – overview of major discourses and frameworks for understanding the making of urban landscapes
- **Urban Nature(s)** – examine social and political dimensions of ‘nature’ in urban landscapes
- **Urban Change** – examine local and transnational processes of urban change in contemporary cities
- **Urban Communities** – examine the discourse and practice of community design in urban neighborhoods
- **Tactics, Strategies and Devices** – explore design strategies and processes in response to the complexity of urban landscapes

Assignments + Grades*/ (see additional handouts for detailed instructions)

1. “Aggregate Urbanism” Photo Diaries + Pecha Kucha: (20%)

Produce 4-10 photographic images that document an “aggregate urban landscape” in Seattle (see handout). Write a 300-word statement that provides your observations and information about the site (including location, time of observation and other pertinent information). Submit your work to the course blog (TBA). See handout for more instructions. Due January 20, 2009. (For examples from previous year, see <http://microseattle.wordpress.com>) Present your photos in class (see course schedule).

2. Reading Response & Class Participation: (20%) Formulate a response or a set of questions based on the readings for each session. Due each class session.

3. Reading Summaries: (20%) Select 2 or 3 articles from the readings that are relevant to a more in-depth exploration and interpretation of your selected micro-urban site. In a 3-5 page essay (double-space), summarize the concepts introduced in the articles and how they are useful in helping you explore the complexity and nuances of your selected site. You may select any readings from the course reserve that are relevant to your site. Due February 10, 2009.

4. Final Report (Guidebook to Seattle Aggregate Urbanism):

(40%) (1) Provide a photographic documentation of your site; (2) using maps and drawing, provide the physical location and profile of your site; (3) provide a 200-word summary of the key characteristics of your selected site; and (4) in a 2000-word essay, explore specific aspects of your site as informed by the selected readings. Due March 16, 2009.

All assignments have to be submitted through **E-Submit (go to the course website and follow the link). All work must be submitted by 5pm of the due date when the e-submit 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>. An additional required text “The Urban Design Reader” (Larice and Macdonald, eds. 2007) is available at the University Bookstore.

Class Participation/

The class will largely follow the format of slide show and discussion. To create interactions in class, questions and discussions are strongly encouraged. In addition to the lecture sessions, graduate-level students are expected to attend a weekly discussion session. Further details to be announced.

Schedule/ (Tu/Th 10:30 to 11:50 am)

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings
Overview & Frameworks			
1	1/6 Tu	Course Overview	Kaliski, John. 1994. The Present City and the Practice of City Design. In <i>Everyday Urbanism</i> . Jacobs, Jane. 1992. The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Chapter I.
	1/8 Th	Discourses: Cities as Ideas & Movements	Hall, Peter. 1996. The City of Dreadful Night. In <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> Platt, Rutherford H. 1994. From Commons to Commons: Evolving Concepts of Open Space in North American Cities.
2	1/13 Tu	Politics: Cities as Contested Terrain	Davis, Mike. 1992. Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> . Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia and Tridib Banerjee. 1998. Postmodern Urban Form. In <i>Urban Design Downtown</i> .
	1/15 Th	Poetics: Cities as Everyday Landscapes	Crawford, Margaret. 1999. Introduction. In <i>Everyday Urbanism</i> . Raban, Jonathan. 1974. <i>Soft City</i> . New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. [Excerpt]
Urban Nature(s)			
3	1/20 Tu	Multiple Natures <i>Photo Diaries due</i>	Spirn, Ann Winston. 1984. <i>The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design</i> , Chapter I. Corner, James. 1997. Ecology and Landscape as Agents of Creativity. In <i>Ecological Design and Planning</i> .
	1/22 Th	Post-industrial Nature	Berger, Alan. 2006. <i>Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America</i> . (excerpt) Krinke, Rebecca. 2001. Overview: design practice and manufactured sites. In <i>Manufactured Site: Rethinking the Post-industrial Landscape</i> .
4	1/27 Tu	Landscape Urbanism	Waldheim, C. 2006. "Landscape as Urbanism," In Waldheim, C., Ed. <i>The Landscape Urbanism Reader</i> . Corner, James. 2006. "Terra Fluxus." In Waldheim, C., Ed. <i>The Landscape Urbanism Reader</i> .
Urban Change			
	1/29 Th	Theme Cities: Overview	Sorkin, Michael. 1992. Introduction: Variations on A Theme Park. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> . Zukin, Sharon. 2002. From Landscape of Power: From Detroit to Disney World. In <i>The Blackwell City Reader</i> .
5	2/3 Tu	Photo Diaries Pecha Kucha	No readings
	2/5 Th	Ethnoscapes	Sandercock, Leonie. 1998. <i>Towards Cosmopolis</i> . (Excerpts) Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia. 1995. Urban Form and Social Context: Cultural Differentiation in the Use of Urban Parks. In <i>Journal of Planning Education & Research</i> .

6	2/10 Tu	Dynamics of Preservation <i>Reading Summaries due</i>	Hayden, Dolores. 1997. Claiming Urban Landscape as Public History. In <i>Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design</i> . Boyer, Christine. 1992. City for Sale: Merchandising History at South Street Seaport. In <i>Variations on A Theme Park</i> .
Urban Communities			
	2/12 Th	Citizen Power: Community Design & Participation	Hester, Randolph T. 1999. "A Refrain with a View," <i>Places</i> 12(2). Francis, Mark, Lisa Cashdan, and Lynn Paxson. 1984. The Community Open-space Movement. In <i>Community Open Spaces: Greening Neighborhoods through Community Action and Land Conservation</i> .
7	2/17 Tu	Community-driven Placemaking	Hou, Jeffrey, Julie Johnson, and Laura Lawson. 2009. Greening Cities, Growing Communities: Urban Community Gardens the Seattle Way. Seattle: University of Washington Press. [Excerpt]
	2/19 Th	Politics of Community Differences	Young, Iris Marion. 2002. The Ideal of Community and the Politics of Difference. In <i>The Blackwell City Reader</i> . 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): 301-313.
Tactics, Strategies, & Devices			
8	2/24 Tu	Projects & Processes	Alexander, C., et al. 1987. <i>A New Theory of Urban Design</i> . Wall, Alex. 1999. Programming the Urban Surfaces. In <i>Recovering Landscape</i> .
	2/26 Th	Urban Narratives	Potteiger, Matthew and Jamie Purinton. 2002. Landscape Narratives (1998). In <i>Theory in Landscape Architecture: A Reader</i> . Hayden, Dolores. 1995. <i>The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History</i> . Chapter 10, Storytelling with the Shapes of Time.
9	3/3 Tu	Event Cities	Virilio, Paul. 2000. <i>A Landscape of Events</i> . (excerpt: p. x-xiii) Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. 1999. "Performing the City: Reflections on the Urban Vernacular." In <i>Everyday Urbanism</i> .
	3/5 Th	Insurgent Public Space	Hou, Jeffrey. (Not) Your Everyday Public Space. In Hou, Jeffrey, ed. <i>Insurgent Public Space: Contesting and Remaking the Contemporary City</i> . (Manuscript in progress) Franck, Karen A. and Quentin Stevens. 2007. Tying Down Loose Space. In Franck, Karen A. and Quentin Stevens (eds.), <i>Loose Space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life</i> . London: Routledge.
10	3/10 Tu	Work day	No Readings
	3/12 Th	Project review	Calvino, Italo. 1974. <i>Invisible Cities</i> . (Excerpts)