

UDES 502 – Ecological Regional Design
UBC Master of Urban Design Program
2017–2018 Winter Term 2
Tuesday and Friday, 1:30pm-6:00pm
McML 388/394

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Course Overview

UDES 502 – Ecological Regional Design is concerned with urban design in the regional context and includes a focused inquiry on the theme of water. The studio will also include two sub-themes: considerations on the identity of the ‘urbanist’ along with the associated role of the urban design profession and the role of the street as connective tissue and idiosyncratic place in the regional context. Mumbai will serve as the subject of the studio and the course will include 2 weeks of on-site inquiry such as observational analysis, mapping, and stakeholder engagement. The effort will be supported through UBC SALA’s partnership with the Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies (KRVIA).

Work will include both individual and group efforts with an underlying goal that the studio will work collaboratively to produce a cohesive body of work. The nature of the final deliverables will be determined in consultation with all participants of the studio but may include a film, a gallery style presentation, a book, a series of presentations, other forms of media, or a combination / range of initiatives. Students will be asked to consider how any of these approaches may lend themselves to a collaborative working methodology, practical skill development, and a creative outcome commensurate with the opportunity presented by an immersive studio culture and dynamic urban context. The expectation is that the collective output of the studio is clear, considered, informative, accessible, inspirational, purposeful, and ambitious.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop clear and innovative graphic representation techniques (both analog and digital) for communicating site analysis at various scales.
- Establish collaborative working methodologies that enhance the creative process and engage local stakeholders.
- Construct a conceptual framework of Mumbai urbanism, and to apply it as a tool to document the spatial relationships related to water in Mumbai.
- Acquire understanding of sites and contexts using a range of diverse sources and techniques: Including careful critical observation, mapping, GIS data, historic documents, maps, films, photography, drawings.

- Describe and analyze the cultural context of Mumbai using the tools of mapping, diagramming and sketching to see/read, study, and graphically represent historic and contemporary transformations in the built environment.

Course Requirements

- Participation during studio meetings, plus additional work time outside of the studio. Regular attendance is expected of students. Unexcused absences and repeated tardiness will result in grade deductions. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes. Any request for academic concession must be clearly expressed (see [Academic Concession](#)).
- Participation in team-based projects working with other members of class for the benefit of community stakeholders.
- Completion of independent and collaborative work as required to advance understanding of critical regional urban design issues as they pertain to project objectives.
- Successful communication (in oral presentation, text, and drawings) of a comprehensive solution to a defined urban design problem at the regional scale.
- Application of regional urban design theory to local problems.
- Demonstration of proficiency in synthesizing the above in the form of a comprehensive design solution.

Evaluation of Student Learning

As a studio, the class is structured around team-based instruction and dialogue as well as one-on-one tutorials with a professor. Outside faculty are invited in for reviews to provide comment and evaluation, though grading is done by instructors. Evaluations are based on criteria provided in the course syllabus and in assignments, working toward the course Learning Outcomes. Grading will be weighted as follows:

- Part 1 Milestone: 20%
- Part 2 Milestone: 20%
- Part 3 Milestone: 10%
- Part 4 Milestone: 20%
- Part 5 Milestone: 30% (10% presentation; 20% final deliverables)

Course Schedule:

Project Kick-off (1 sessions: January 5)

The first week of this studio will be devoted to our project launch including introductory conversations on our own individual perspectives on urbanism and our collective goals for the studio.

Part 1 – The Region and Urban Design (4 sessions: January 9 – January 19)

Part 1 of the studio will provide us with an opportunity to research and develop a body of baseline research on the site / city / region scale. Work will include cartographic inquiries and data collection / representation of a comprehensive set of topics including, but not limited to, the theme of water and our sub-theme explorations. This work is intended to create breadth to our shared understanding of the site and studio themes and will be undertaken individually. Each studio member will become an ‘expert’ on a particular set of topics and become a resource to others throughout the duration of the course. Work output will include a map or timelines of the subject matter as well as a two-page written synopsis on the findings.

Part 1 Milestone – Cartographic Presentation (Individual) with Guest Crit(s)

Part 2 – Research Threads (3 sessions: January 23 – January 30)

Part 2 of the studio is a synthesis stage during which the studio will work together to identify the emergent areas of shared interest and potential impact on subsequent efforts. Based on Part 1 research, the studio may choose to select three or four areas of specific focus to invest additional effort on researching, mapping, or understanding. This may be building on existing research, undertaking new research to fill gaps, or working to construct new insights from overlapping or conflicting studies. The studio will also begin to generate a palette of potential urban design responses to these threads which may be deployed following Part 3.

Part 2 Milestone – Group Presentations with Guest Crit(s)

Part 3 – Site (2 sessions + 2 weeks in Mumbai: February 2 – February 23)

Based on the topics identified, the studio will create a checklist of tasks / conversations / site visits / methodologies to undertake while in Mumbai. Effort will be placed to consider the overall design narrative potential of the studio work and to select specific efforts to undertake.

Part 3 Milestone – Travel to / from Mumbai and Charette at KRVA with Guest Critics

Part 4 – Design Argument (4 sessions: February 27 – March 9)

This is the central design germination stage of the studio where work transitions from ‘exploratory’ to a ‘commitment.’ Working individually – but with frequent in-studio deskside critiques and studio-wide critiques sessions - students will be tasked with developing a design response for a specific site(s). The response will be focused geographically but responsible for addressing a wide range of topics as outlined in Parts 1-3 of the studio.

Part 4 Milestone - Pop-Up Gallery at the DIALOG studio / Presentation + Pin Up Session

Part 5 – Design Proposal (8 sessions: March 13 – April 6)

In many ways a continued effort from Part 4 rather than a new undertaking, Part 5 of the studio allows work to be fully developed and clearly communicated with the benefit of input and critique received within the Part 4 Milestone. The culmination of Part 5 is the culmination of the studio in its entirety. Work deliverables will consist of individual production of a set of presentation panels as well as an additional deliverable of the student’s choosing such as an audio inventory / sound map, photo essay, stakeholder interview transcription, etc.

Part 5 Milestone – Final Presentations / Exhibit (format TBD)

Academic Integrity

- Students are responsible for informing themselves of the guidelines of acceptable and non-acceptable conduct for graded assignments. If you have any questions about specific assignments and what constitutes acceptable academic conduct, please ask the instructors in class, after class, or by email.

Academic Accommodation

- Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation should contact [Access and Diversity](#) without delay (see [UBC Policy 73](#)). Further information is available at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,34,0,0>.