

Urbanism by Design:

A History of Ideas on Cities and Planning

UDES 504 History and Theory of Urban Design

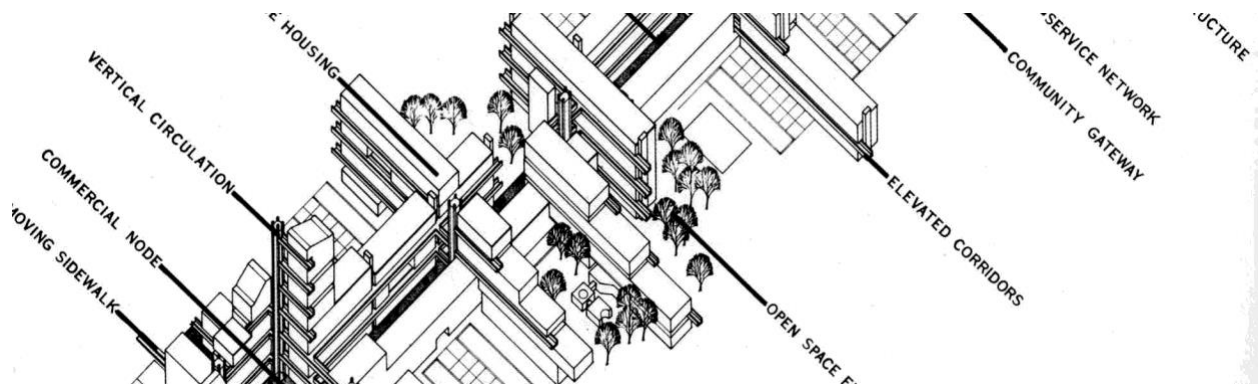
University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

2018–2019 Fall Term 1, Orchard Commons 3002, Wednesdays 1:30pm-4:30pm

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Josep Lluís Sert, et al., Harvard New Communities project, June 1968. From Eric Mumford, *Defining Urban Design*, Yale UP 2009, 184.

The words that describe collections of human habitation vary by time and perspective, from the quaint “urban village,” to the assertive “megalopolis.” Every one of these words both reveals and constructs an entire genealogy of cityscapes. **This course will examine how ideas have influenced designs on the city.** Each week will pair a theme in design and planning with its partner in intellectual history to investigate how design responds to and also influences larger cultural economies. Focusing on the 20th century and on North America, with some digressions to other times and places, the course will put planning and architecture side-by-side to identify and understand their differences and examine their representational techniques. Students will gain familiarity with the history of planning, landscape architecture, and urban design, and will be able to put contemporary ideas into context with their historical antecedents. In studying the intellectual history of trends in the field, students will be able to critically engage with current debates and parse their alignment to questions of politics, economics, and culture.

The format for the course will be one lecture and one discussion per week, dividing the 3-hour class meeting roughly in half. The discussion will center around student presentations. Assignments include this presentation and three short papers. Papers will be discussed and workshopped in small groups in class, with one expanding into a longer, revised final paper.

Learning outcomes:

- To demonstrate critical thinking about questions of urban design, its history, and its relations with city planning, architecture, and landscape architecture
- To explain different historical shifts in urban design paradigms over the twentieth century in North America, and to have a sense of how these trends connect to a global context
- To read, interpret, analyze, and engage with the history and criticism of urban design as a discipline

Assignments:

- Each week students will email/post to Connect one or two questions (or statements) in **response to the readings**. These are to be reflective, not cursory, and are intended to spur discussion and alert me to your collective interests and concerns.
- Each student will be responsible for **leading discussions** at set times through the semester. This presentation will be a combination of a reading response and leading the discussion, where the double task will be to interpret the material from the lecture and readings while also stimulating class discussion.
- The first assignment will be **one short paper** (500-750 words) that develops critical thinking about contemporary questions in the field of urban design as a starting point for understanding its history. These papers will be shared with your classmates in peer review sessions.
- The major assignment for the course will be a longer independent **research paper** (2,500-3,000 words). Topics will be discussed in class and will require approval from the professor. The first stage will be to submit an **abstract** (250-500 words) and an **annotated bibliography**. This will also be reviewed by peers and discussed in class. The second phase will be a short **presentation** of your research to the class, and the final phase will be the research paper itself.
- SHORT PAPER DUE **SEPTEMBER 26**
- ABSTRACT/BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE **OCTOBER 17**
- IN-CLASS PRESENTATION **OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 7**
- FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE **DECEMBER 7**

Course expectations:

- Regular attendance is expected of students. Students who neglect their academic work and assignments will be graded accordingly. 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).
- 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 me in class, after class, or by email.
- Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. Further information is available at this link. For all cases of academic misconduct, disciplinary measures (including a failing grade for the course, suspension, and/or expulsion) will be followed according to UBC policies.

Grading:

- Class participation and attendance: 15%
- Discussion leader: 15%
- Short papers with revisions: 25%
- Presentation of research paper: 10%
- Final research paper: 35% (10% abstract + annotated bibliography; 25% final paper)

Guidelines:

- Readings will be available on Connect a week before each class meeting. The purpose of the course readings is to foster a good, engaged discussion. Therefore, you are

required bring the readings to class (printed or on a screen) along with your notes so we can refer back to them.

- I reserve the right to make changes to the readings and assignments as the semester moves along, but will stay within the boundaries of the workload signaled in this syllabus.
- Please be polite to your classmates by staying focused during the discussion: no texting, social media, web surfing, etc.
- This course provides a respectful, supportive, educational, and safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, two-spirited and intersex (LGBQTTI) persons or those questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. If you have any questions or concerns regarding safe spaces at UBC, you can email positive.space@ubc.ca, visit <http://positivespace.ubc.ca/home/>, or drop by the Equity & Inclusion Office.
- No extensions; the deadlines are firm once set. Late assignments will be docked 10% for each day they are late.
- Regular attendance is expected of students. Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations. 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](#)).
- 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 me in class, after class, or by email.
- 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>.
- Office hours will be from 1-3pm on Tuesdays. My office is in Lasserre, 205A (first door on the left when you enter the door marked 205).

Land Acknowledgment:

This course acknowledges that we meet as uninvited guests on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. Find out more about this land acknowledgement [here](#).

Books Worth Owning:

- Eric Mumford, *Designing the Modern City: Urbanism since 1850* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018).
- Eric Mumford, *Defining Urban Design: CIAM Architects and the Formation of a Discipline, 1937-69* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009).
- Alex Krieger and William S. Saunders, eds., *Urban Design* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009).

Week 1: What is Urban Design?

September 5

- Alex Krieger, "Where and How Does Urban Design Happen?" *Urban Design*, eds. Krieger and Saunders (Minneapolis: Minnesota UP, 2008), 113–130.

Week 2: The Legacy of New Urbanism

September 12

Seaside, Celebration, the Woodlands, Kentlands, Poundsbury; Krier; Hope VI; Peter Calthorpe, Douglas Kelbaugh

- Barnett, Calthorpe, Plater-Zyberk, Gindroz, Duany, Leccese, McCormick, eds. *Charter of the New Urbanism* (NY: McGraw-Hill, 2000), selections
- Doug Kelbaugh, "The New Urbanism," *Journal of Architectural Education* (1984-) 51, no. 2 (1997): 142–44, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1425456>.
- WATCH: Koolhaas/Duany debate at GSD conference "Exploring (New) Urbanisms" in 1999 (esp. part 3)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIPZnrzY_t8&feature=share&list=PLI04tOCAd66NDlvDQJDBLCWtX876lkvUS
- Plus ONE reading from a selection of these "polemical" texts. You will present a summary of your article to the class on Sept 12.
 - Karen Abrams, "Hijinks in Harlem: The Whiteness of 'Place,'" *The Avery Review*, no. 24 (June 2017), <http://www.averyreview.com/issues/24/hijinks-in-harlem>.
 - Michael Sorkin, "The End(s) of Urban Design." *Urban Design*, eds. Krieger and Saunders (Minneapolis: Minnesota UP, 2008), 155–182.
 - B. D. Wortham-Galvin, "Mythologies of Placemaking," *Places Journal* 20, no. 1 (June 15, 2008), <https://placesjournal.org/article/mythologies-of-placemaking/>.
 - Cole Harris, "How Did Colonialism Dispossess? Comments from an Edge of Empire," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94, no. 1 (March 1, 2004): 165–82, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8306.2004.09401009.x>

Week 3: Three Roots of City Planning

September 19

Jeffersonian Grid/ Land Ordinance of 1785, 1811 plan of New York City, American antiurban bias; Olmsted as proto-planner; City Beautiful and Burnham's plan of Chicago, 19th c. urban reformers; Progressive era reformers; planning and power

- Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. "Jefferson, Thoreau & After." In *Landscapes: Selected Writings of J.B. Jackson*, edited by Ervin H. Zube, 1–10. Amherst, MA.: University of Massachusetts, 1970. [9]
- Bluestone, Daniel M. "The 1909 Plan of Chicago." In *Constructing Chicago*, 194–198. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991. [4]
- Rebecca Ross, "Picturing the Profession: The View from Above and the Civic Imaginary in Burnham's Plans," *Journal of Planning History* (April 15, 2013): 1–13. [12]
- Boyer, M. Christine. *Dreaming the Rational City: The Myth of American City Planning*, 59-82. Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press, 1983. [23]

Week 4: Expansion: Regional Planning & Garden Cities

September 26

[FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE]

Suburbs & the picturesque; Garden Cities; Ebenezer Howard, Letchworth & Welwyn, Patrick Geddes, Kropotkin, Regional Plan Association of America (Mumford, Stein, MacKaye), Radburn, Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs, various beginnings of suburbanization, Levittown & postwar suburbs

- Schuyler, David. "Introduction." In *From Garden City to Green City: the Legacy of Ebenezer Howard*, edited by Kermit C. Parsons and David Schuyler, 1–8. Baltimore, Md. : Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. [8]
- Hall, Peter Geoffrey. "City in the Region." In *Cities of Tomorrow: an Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*, 143–169. Oxford, UK : Blackwell, 2002. [26]
- Bruegmann, Robert, *Sprawl: A Compact History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), pp. 1-13. [12]

Week 5: Midcentury Beginning of Urban Design

October 3

Harvard conference on urban design April 1956; urban design's roots in modernist urbanism; Josep Lluís Sert (in detail) with Chimbote, Peru, Cidade dos Motores, Bogota; Alison and Peter Smithsons' Golden Lane and Hauptstadt

- "Report of the Harvard Conference," *Progressive Architecture* 37, no. 8 (August 1956): 97–112. [15]
- Josep Lluís Sert, "The Human Scale in City Planning," in *New Architecture and City Planning*, ed. Paul Zucker (New York: Philosophical Library, 1944), 392–412. [20]
- Eric Mumford, "Chapter 6: Urban Design, Team 10, and Metabolism after 1953," in *Designing the Modern City: Urbanism since 1850* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018), 253-287 [34].

Week 6: Critical Utopias

October 10

Background of early 20th century utopias (and before More, Hayden, political philosophy) with Frank Lloyd Wright's Broadacre City and Corb's Ville Radieuse and Voisin Plan; focus on 1960s neo-avant garde utopias with Constant's New Babylon, Yona Friedman's Spatial Urbanism, Archigram, Cedric Price, Ant Farm, Paolo Soleri, Metabolists

- Reyner Banham, Paul Barker, Peter Hall, Cedric Price, "Non-Plan: An Experiment in Freedom," in *New Society* [20 March 1969]: pp. 435-443. [8]
- Paolo Soleri, "Arcology: The City in the Image of Man" and "The Characteristics of Arcology" in *The City Reader*, edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, London: Routledge, 1996, 453-457. [2]
- Banham, Reyner. "Epilogue: The Meaning of Megastructure." In *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past*, 196–216. London: Thames and Hudson, 1976. [20]

Week 7: Empire, Colonialism, and Planning

October 17

[ABSTRACT/BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE]

Lutyens, Geddes in Tel Aviv and India, Le Corbusier in Algiers, Team X in North Africa, South America, etc., ATBAT-Afrique, John F.C. Turner, Hassan Fathy, Doxiadis and Ecochard in Pakistan

- James C. Scott. "Authoritarian High Modernism." In *Readings in Planning Theory*, edited by Scott Campbell and Susan S. Fainstein, 125–141. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2003. [16]
- Gwendolyn Wright. "Introduction." In *The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism*, 1–13. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. [13]
- Gwendolyn Wright, "Building Global Modernisms," *Grey Room*, no. 07 (Spring 2002): 124–34, doi:10.1162/152638102760104671. [11]

Week 8: Urban Renewal, Social Science, and Crime

October 24

Robert Moses, William Zeckendorf, local renewal authorities and scientific management of cities, ecological and economic (creative destruction) explanations for renewal, public housing in North America, crime, Oscar Newman

- Oscar Newman, "Defensible Space: Alternatives to Fear," *Progressive Architecture* 53 (October 1972): 92–97, 100–101, 104–6.
- Joy Knoblauch, "Do You Feel Secure?" *Urban Omnibus: A Publication of the Urban League of New York*, March 28, 2018. <https://urbanomnibus.net/2018/03/do-you-feel-secure/>
- Lawrence J. Vale, "Public Housing in the United States: Neighborhood Renewal and the Poor," in *Policy, Planning, and People* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013), 285–306.

Week 9: Advocacy Planning, Preservation, and Contextualism

October 31

[IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS]

Kevin Lynch, Christopher Alexander, William H. Whyte, Davidoff's advocacy planning (and Denise Scott Brown), Jane Jacobs, Ian McHarg,

- Paul Davidoff, "Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning," in *The City Reader*, edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, London: Routledge, 1996, 421-433. [12]
- Jane Jacobs, from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (NY: Random House, 1961), pp. 5–18. [13]
- Kevin Lynch, "The Visual Shape of the Shapeless Metropolis," in T. Banerjee and M. Southworth, eds., *City Sense and City Design: Writings and Projects of Kevin Lynch* [Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995], pp. 35–86.

Week 10: Postmodern Geographies / Ecological Urbanism

November 7

[IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS]

Chicago school (Wirth, Burgess, Park) vs. Los Angeles school (Dear, Soja, Storper, Davis); Fredric Jameson, Edward Soja; cognitive mapping (Situationists), Michael Dear and postmodern urbanism, Fordism and Post-fordism, Lars Lerup and Sanford Kwinter

- Saskia Sassen, excerpts from *Cities in a World Economy* (1994), reprinted in *The City Reader*, edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, London: Routledge, 1996, 69-74, 299-304. [10]
- Sanford Kwinter, "New Babylons: Urbanism for the New Millennium," in *Far From Equilibrium: Essays on Technology and Design Culture* (Barcelona & NY: ACTAR, 2007), 182-185. [2]
- James Corner, "Terra Fluxus," in *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006), 21-33.

Week 11: CLASS CANCELLED

November 14

Continue work on final research projects.

Week 12: Neoliberalism, Gentrification, Office Towers

November 21

Pastoral capitalism, zone urbanism, La Defense, Paris; Canary Wharf, London; James Rouse and Ben Thompson, Festival marketplaces in Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans; Noisy-le-Grande / Marne-la-Vallée, Toronto waterfront, Vancouver point towers

- Keller Easterling, "Zone: The Spatial Softwares of Extrastatecraft," *Design Observer* June 11, 2012, available at <http://places.designobserver.com/feature/zone-the-spatial-softwares-of-extrastatecraft/34528/> [20]
- Yasser Elsheshtawy, "Urban Dualities in the Arab World: From a Narrative of Loss to Neo-Liberal Urbanism," in *Urban Design Reader*, ed. Michael Larice and Elizabeth MacDonald (London: Routledge, 2013), 475–96. [21]
- Sharon Zukin, "Introduction: The City That Lost Its Soul," in *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1-31.

Week 13: Mumbai

November 28

Background on the history of Mumbai in preparation for studio trip in Spring Semester for Master of Urban Design Students

- Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha, *Soak: Mumbai in an Estuary* (New Delhi: Rupa & Co, 2009) [selection TBD].
- Rahul Mehrotra, "Constructing Cultural Significance: Looking at Bombay's Historic Fort Area," *Future Anterior: Journal of Historic Preservation, History, Theory, and Criticism* 1, no. 2 (2004): 24–31.
- Preeti Chopra, "Refiguring the Colonial City: Recovering the Role of Local Inhabitants in the Construction of Colonial Bombay, 1854-1918," *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 14 (2007): 109–25.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE December 7.

No extensions, no exceptions. The end.

Acknowledgements

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