

Urban Design and Planning 423/523 A Autumn 2024 (3.0 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO URBAN DESIGN

Class Meeting Time and Place: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30-5:50pm in Gould Hall 114

Instructor: Lyle Bicknell

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm - 4:00pm in Gould Court, or by appointment

Course website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1752490>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to the discipline and practice of urban design, through a combination of classic and contemporary readings, class discussion and lectures, and hands-on exercises analyzing the urban public realm. Students will become familiar with key theoretical and practical foundations of urban design, and develop their capacity to critique and recommend improvements to projects, policies, and environments using arguments based on the readings and the results of their observations. The main components of the course are:

- Seminar readings, reflection, and discussion, both in-class and online;
- Design review or other design policy documents analysis;
- Field exercises to develop spatial, visual and graphic literacy for urban design purposes based on imageability studies, thematic mapping, textual and photographic "thick description" of urban environments, and observation of activity in public spaces;
- Case study final report synthesizing findings from these other components applied to a particular case or site, and proposing appropriate design strategies or design-related policy recommendations of a level commonly associated with professional community-scale design and neighborhood planning projects.

UrbDP 523 is required for the Master of Urban Planning Specialization in Urban Design, and also counts towards the urban design methods requirement for the Urban Design Certificate.

FORMAT

The course meets for two 80-minute seminar/small-lecture sessions each week. Class meetings feature discussions of the reading, lectures by the instructor or guest speakers, and/or presentations of field work by students. Class meetings are for discussion and interaction. Students who arrive late, leave early or absent themselves for part of the session without prior explanation disrupt the class, and will lose points for participation. Students are expected to read the assigned texts *before* the class meeting for which they are scheduled; to post their comments on the course online discussion board as prompted; and to participate fully in class discussion. Assignments are to be submitted to Canvas.

READINGS

The course schedule below shows the topics for each class meeting, and the relevant texts. Readings are given as references for the topics of discussion for each session. In some cases the instructor may replace or supplement these with other readings, especially if relevant to the

direction of seminar discussion. Course readings include classic essays on theory, commentaries on the discipline of urban design, and writings about urban environmental research and design methodology. Readings are either provided on Canvas as web links or scanned electronic files, or are found in the main course texts:

- *Companion to Urban Design*, edited by Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris (Routledge/Taylor & Francis, 2011)
- *The Urban Design Reader*, 2nd Edition, edited by Michael Larice and Elizabeth Macdonald (London and New York: Routledge, 2013).

Both are available in e-book format for limited readings/downloads/printing through UW Libraries. You may wish to purchase or borrow hardcopies of these texts for your personal use.

Other key texts are: Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (NY: Vintage Books, 1961); Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1960); Kevin Lynch, *What Time is This Place* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1972); Whyte, William H., *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (Washington, D.C.: Conservation Foundation, 1980). For students already familiar with these texts, a further key text is Arendt, Hannah, *The Human Condition* (University of Chicago Press, 2nd ed., intro. Margaret Canovan, 1998). Other readings will also be available on reserve in the Built Environments Library.

COURSE PROJECT

In addition to discussing readings, students must complete a course project, focused on a case study, which incorporates all the assignments and exercises apart from the readings. A detailed description of the course project is provided separately.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Digital camera; scale ruler (engineering); note/sketchbook; graph paper; colored felt-tip pens and/or pencils. Students who already have at least a rudimentary knowledge of Photoshop, and/or SketchUp or other 3-D architectural modeling software are encouraged to use that software to complete some of the exercises.

EVALUATION

Grades will be determined as follows:

- 15% (10 points) – Participation in class discussion of readings and exercises
- 30% (30 points) – Case study field exercises/design review analysis
- 30% (30 points) – Contribution to online discussion of readings
- 25% (25 points) – Final report on case study

Each assignment is worth some points that add up to a possible total of 100 (plus some for optional extra credit assignments). Each point is therefore worth 0.04 points towards a 4.0 grade scale. So for example if you earn a total of 84 points at the end of the quarter, that will convert to a grade of 3.4 ($84 \times 0.04 = 3.36$, rounded up = 3.4).

COURSE COMMUNITY

Treat others as you would like to be treated – with respect. Be prepared to offer constructive critique – i.e. to discuss ideas on their merits, distinct from the people who express them.

As always, plagiarism will not be tolerated. For more information, please refer to UW guidelines, at <https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/grading-resources/>

Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>).

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Note on returning to in-person classroom learning with COVID-19 measures

This class is conducted in-person and masked in accordance with the UW Masking policy. Students are expected to participate in class to fully benefit from course activities and meet the course's learning objectives. Students should only register for this class if they are able to attend in-person and masked.

To protect their fellow students, faculty, and staff, students who feel ill or exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not come to class and seek immediate testing, the most convenient may be the **Husky Testing Program**. If you test positive contact the University of Washington **UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team** at covidehc@uw.edu or 206-616-3344. When absent, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor in advance (or as close to the class period as possible in the case of an unexpected absence), and to request appropriate make-up work. The instructor has the responsibility to determine if make-up work is possible and/or to modify assignment or course grading. For chronic absences, the instructor may award an incomplete grade after the 8th week, or recommend the student contact their academic adviser to consider a hardship withdrawal (known as a Registrar Drop).

You may be eligible for an accommodation administered by the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to take classes remotely if you are a student who is

- a. Immunocompromised;
- b. Experiencing other diagnosed physical or mental health conditions that preclude you from participating in class in person.

If you think you may qualify for any type of formal accommodation, we encourage you to visit the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) and apply by completing the necessary steps as soon as possible. *Please note that it can take 4-6 weeks to get approvals through DRS, so you need to submit any requests well in advance of the beginning of the quarter to have the best outcome.*

SCHEDULE

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
WEEK 1	
Thursday September 26	
Introduction to course and to each other	Review syllabus
WEEK 2	
Tuesday October 1	
What is urban design?	Alex Krieger, "Where and How Does Urban Design Happen?" <i>The Urban Design Reader</i> , pp.585-594. Sternberg, Ernest. "An Integrative Theory of Urban Design." <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> 66(3) (Summer 2000): 265-78.
Thursday October 3	
What is urban design in Seattle?	John Owen, "Designing Seattle: The Role of Urban Design in the City's Evolution: 1970 to 2020," in Jill Sterrett et al, eds., <i>Planning the Pacific Northwest</i> (Routledge, 2017), Ch. 9, pp.96-107.
	Teams and Topics announced
Introduce Field Exercise #1 Micro- and Macro-scale Perceptual Analysis of Urban Context	Readings are for field exercise reference only: Allan B. Jacobs, <i>Looking at Cities</i> (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1985), "Clues," pp.30-83; "Seeing Change" and "Observing the Unknown," pp.99-132. Book on reserve. These chapters also on reserve as a separately bound photocopy. K. Lynch, <i>What Time is this Place?</i> Introduction, and Ch.1, "Cities Transforming," pp.1-28; Ch.6 "Boston Time," pp.135-162.
In-class Exercise: Cognitive mapping – What Time (and Place) is this Place?	
WEEK 3	
Tuesday October 8	
City Image and Townscape: Cognitive-perceptual bases for conceiving of urban design, and for analyzing urban space-time	K. Lynch, <i>The Image of the City</i> , Ch.1, "The Image of the Environment," pp. 1-13, and Ch. 3, "The City Image and Its Elements," pp. 46-90 (also in <i>The Urban Design Reader</i>); Appendix B, "The Use of the Method," pp. 140-159; Appendix C, "Two Examples of Analysis," pp.160-181. K. Lynch, "A Walk Around the Block." Gordon Cullen, "Introduction to the Concise Townscape," <i>The Urban Design Reader</i> , pp.331-348.
Thursday October 10	
In-class Exercise: Cognitive mapping – how city image is structured in your memory	
WEEK 4	
Tuesday October 15	
Introduce Field Exercise #2 Public Life Observation	No readings; present and discuss Field Exercise #1 Micro- and Macro-scale Perceptual Analysis of Urban Context

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
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WEEK 4 continued	
Thursday October 17	Potential guest presentation Design Review Gehl Public Life Study Methodology
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WEEK 5	
Tuesday October 22	
Elements of the Public Realm I – Places/Nodes/ Cores: <i>being</i> in public	Mark Francis, "Mixed-life Places," <i>Companion to Urban Design</i> , Chap.33. Gary Hack, "Urban Flux," <i>Companion to Urban Design</i> , Chap.34. Randall Hester, "Subconscious Landscapes of the Heart ." <i>Places</i> , 2(3), 10-22.
What questions would you "ask" the public places you are investigating?	Ronald Lee Fleming, "Questions to Ask a Place." <i>Places: A Forum of Environmental Design</i> 6(4): 12-13.
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Thursday October 24	
Observation of social activity in public spaces.	Whyte, William H., <i>The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces</i> (Washington, D.C.: Conservation Foundation, 1980). On reserve. Whyte, William H., Municipal Art Society of New York. <i>The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces</i> . Santa Monica, Calif.: Direct Cinema, 2005. Available online through UW Library as eVideo at https://washington.kanopy.com/video/social-life-small-urban-spaces-0
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">In-class Exercise: Practice the Public Life Study data collection method using University Way</div>	
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WEEK 6	
Tuesday October 29	
Elements of the Public Realm II – Networks/ Paths: <i>moving</i> in public	Allan B. Jacobs, "Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning," <i>The Urban Design Reader</i> , pp.583-593. Ellis, William C., "The Spatial Structure of Streets," in Stanford Anderson, ed., <i>On Streets</i> (MIT Press, 1986): 114-132.
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Thursday November 31	
Elements of the Public Realm III – Building presence (facades, edges, bulk): bounding public space	Schumacher, Thomas, "Buildings and Streets: Notes on Configuration and Use," in Stanford Anderson, ed., <i>On Streets</i> : 132-149. E-reading. Scherr, Richard, "The Urban Streetwall Redefined," in <i>Architectural Education: Where We Are/Proceedings of the 80th Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture</i> (Washington DC: ACSA Press, 1992), pp. 148-153.
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WEEK 7	

Tuesday November 5

Putting it all together: Urban Elements, Typo-morphology and New Urbanism

Robert Fishman, "The Open and the Enclosed: Shifting Paradigms in Modern Urban Design," *Companion to Urban Design*, pp.30-40.
Brenda Case Scheer, "A Crisis in the Urban Landscape", etc., *The Urban Design Reader*, pp.837-895.
Congress for the New Urbanism, "Charter of the New Urbanism," *The Urban Design Reader*, pp.896-905.
Allan Jacobs & Donald Appleyard, "Toward an Urban Design Manifesto," *The Urban Design Reader*, pp.594-623.

Optional additional readings: Anne Vernez Moudon, "Getting to Know the Built Landscape: Typomorphology," from *The Urban Design Reader* (1st edition only).
Leon Krier, " 'Critiques' and 'Urban Components'".

Thursday November 7

No new readings; in-class group discussion of week's reading topic

WEEK 8

Tuesday November 12

Public Process: Intervention types
- Regulation and management
- Design review
- Design guidelines

Brenda Case Scheer, "The Debate on Design Review," *The Urban Design Reader* (1st edition only), on Canvas as a separate e-reading.
John Punter, "Developing Urban Design as Public Policy: Best Practice Principles for Design Review and Development Management," *Journal of Urban Design*, 12:2 (2007), pp.167-202.
William C. Baer, "Customs, Norms, Rules, Regulations, and Standards in Design Practice," *Companion to Urban Design*, Chap.21.
Slides on design review by Katie Idziorek

Optional additional reading: Matthew Carmona, "Decoding Design Guidance," *Companion to Urban Design*, Chap.22.
John Punter, "Design Guidelines in American Cities: Conclusions," *The Urban Design Reader*, pp.1615-1661.

Thursday November 14

Public Process: Intervention types (continued)
- Design charrettes
- Participatory/Community Design

Douglas S. Kelbaugh, "The Design Charrette," *Companion to Urban Design*, Chap.24.
Jeffrey Hou, "Citizen Design: Participation and Beyond," *Companion to Urban Design*, Chap.25.

WEEK 9

Tuesday November 19

No readings; present and discuss Field Exercise #2 Public Life Study

Thursday November 21

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS MEETING

Topics

Readings

WEEK 10

Tuesday November 26

OPTIONAL FOR EXTRA
CREDIT: The public realm as
“space of appearance” in Euro-
colonial democracy

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (2nd edition, 1998), especially Chapter 7
“The Public Realm: The Common” and Chapter 8 “The Private Realm:
Property,” pp. 50-67.
Mehta, V. (2022). *Public Space: notes on why it matters, what we should know,
and how to realize its potential* (1st ed.). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003230502>

“Other” Urbanisms I:
(Multi)cultural places

Margaret Crawford, selections from “Everyday Urbanism,” *The Urban Design
Reader*, pp.939-976.
Denise Lawrence-Zuñiga, “Influences of Anthropology on Urban Design,”
Companion to Urban Design, Chap.10.
Clara Irazabal, “Ethnoscapes,” *Companion to Urban Design*, Chap.42

Thursday November 28

“Other” Urbanisms II:
Ecological and Resilient Urban
Design

Anne Whiston Spirn, “Ecological Urbanism,” *Companion to Urban Design*,
Chap.45.
Robert Mugerauer and Kuei-Hsien Liao (2012). "Ecological Design for
Dynamic Systems: Landscape Architecture Conjunction with Complexity
Theory. " *Journal of Biourbanism* (2), 29-49.
Diane Brand & Hugh Nicholson (2016) “Public space and recovery: learning
from post-earthquake Christchurch,” *Journal of Urban Design* 21:2, 159-176.

Optional additional reading:

Penny Allan, et al. (2013) “The Influence of Urban Morphology on the
Resilience of Cities Following an Earthquake,” *Journal of Urban Design*,
18:2, 242-262.
Jeffrey Hou & David Grohman (2018) "Integrating community gardens into
urban parks: Lessons in planning, design and partnership from Seattle."
Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 33 (June): 46-55.

WEEK 11

Tuesday December 3

“Other” Urbanisms III: Urban
Design in Recently, Rapidly
Urbanizing Societies

Vinit Mukhija, “Urban Design for a Planet of Informal Cities,” *Companion to
Urban Design*, Chap.43.
Zhongjie Lin, “Vertical Urbanism: Re-conceptualizing the Compact City,” in
José L. S. Gámez, eds., *Vertical Urbanism: Designing Compact Cities in
China*. Routledge, 2018. Chap.1, pp.25-40.
Chapter 1 plus additional selected chapters (your choice) of Manish Chalana
& Jeffrey Hou (2016) *Messy urbanism: Understanding the "Other" Cities of
Asia* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press).

Optional additional reading:

Marshall, Richard. *Emerging Urbanity: Global Urban Projects in the Asia
Pacific Rim* (London; New York: Spon Press, 2003), Chaps.1, 2, 6, 7, and
especially 11.
Shelton, Barrie, et al. *The Making of Hong Kong: From Vertical to
Volumetric* (Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2010).

Thursday December 5

LAST CLASS – Wrap-up and in-class online evaluation

Wednesday, December 13, 11:59pm - Final Project Due in Canvas.
