



DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING

URBP 723: INTRODUCTION TO URBAN DESIGN (CODE 3886)

Class meets Tuesdays: 11.10 AM to 1 PM in Room 1640

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3.30 PM to 5 PM, or by appointment

Course Overview

Situated at the intersection of architecture and city planning, urban design is both a process and a practical approach to improve the quality of built environments. Good urban design aspires to shape city form by focusing on the complex relationships between built and unbuilt space and by facilitating the creation of built environments that are both sensitive to context and to people's needs. As Jonathan Barnett puts it, urban design is about "designing cities without designing buildings". Urban designers use their rich contextual knowledge about the dynamic nature of city development and their active skills in observing, interpreting, and recording transformations of the built environment in order to support good design at a variety of spatial scales. This course is designed to supplement existing courses that cover history and theory of urban planning and to better prepare students without prior design training for the studio experience.

Course Goals and Objectives

In this class, students will:

- Study historical and contemporary theories and concepts of urban spatial design;
- Develop their skills in observing, analyzing, and recording the complex interactions between human behavior and the built environment and the resultant impacts on city form;
- Learn how to shape and constrain urban development using different policy instruments.

Structure and Format of Class

The class will meet once a week. Students are expected to arrive before the designated start time (11.10 AM) and should plan their schedule so as to stay in class until 1 .00 PM. Tardiness and/or absence (2 or more instances) will negatively impact your final course grade.

Although this class is primarily a lecture class, students are expected to have completed assigned readings ahead of time and will be expected to participate actively in class discussions. Typically, the first hour of class will be a lecture that reviews key concepts. During the second hour of the class, we will discuss assigned readings and relate them to contemporary urban design problems. Each week, I will invite two students to lead the discussions (discussion leaders will be assigned in advance). Discussion leaders are expected to come prepared with questions, ideas, and/or activities to structure the conversation.

Use of Blackboard

Students in this course are required to use **Blackboard**, Hunter's on-line course management system. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for announcements related to the course. Please configure your Hunter email account to ensure that your messages are automatically forwarded to the appropriate place where you typically read your email.

Note that all assignments for this class must be submitted electronically, through the Digital Drop feature on Blackboard since it provides the student and the instructor with an electronic record of submission. If Blackboard crashes (as it sometimes does), you can either attach your submission to an e-mail message or hand a paper copy in person to the department office and get it date/time stamped. Faxed submissions are not acceptable.

Required Books and Readings

Lynch, Kevin. 1981. **Good city form** [originally published as Theory of good city form]. Cambridge: MIT Press

Lynch, Kevin. 1960. **Image of the City**. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Lang, Jon. 2005. **Urban Design: A typology of procedures and products**. Architectural Press.

Additional readings will be assigned for some sessions. In the event that these readings are not readily available to you electronically or through the Hunter Library, then, paper copies of readings will be placed on reserve for this course.

Camera

You are strongly encouraged to acquire a digital camera for your own use in this course. However, I will have a digital camera available for you to check out, if necessary.

Computing and Assignment Submission Requirements

Each student is expected to have some form of digital media to store and transfer your data. I recommend a USB2 flash drive (512 MB RAM or greater). Your assignments, regardless of the software program you used to create them, must typically be saved and submitted as Adobe PDF documents.

Software

It is anticipated that all students are familiar with the use of *MS PowerPoint*. Students will be introduced to a software program called *Panorama Factory* that facilitates the creation of 360 views. Students will also be introduced to the basics of *Adobe Photoshop*. The use of these programs will be demonstrated during a regular class session in the 6th floor Social Sciences Computing Lab. Software programs recommended for use in this class will be available ONLY on the 6th floor lab computers (until our own lab opens in Hunter North 1000C). For additional details about the lab, including lab open access hours, you can visit <http://urban.hunter.cuny.edu/ssl>

University Policies

University policies and procedures will be followed to address issues related to accommodation for disabilities, religious observations, dealing with discriminatory conduct, sexual harassment and other related matters. In general, if you need special accommodation to meet any of the requirements of this course, you must see the instructor during the first week of classes.

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Grading Scheme

I.	Attendance and class participation	10 % (individual)
II.	Performance in leading discussions	30 % (teams of two)
III.	Assignment 1 Observing Places and Traces	30 % (individual)
IV.	Assignment 2 Developing Design Guidelines	30 % (individual)

Submission Deadlines

I take submission deadlines seriously. **Unexplained late submissions will not be graded.** In special circumstances such as illness or family emergencies, the student can negotiate a later submission deadline by contacting me¹. Note that all assignments for this class must be submitted electronically, through the Digital Drop feature on Blackboard since it provides the student and the instructor with an electronic record of submission. If Blackboard crashes (as it sometimes does), you can either attach your submission to an e-mail message or hand a paper copy in person to the department office and get it date/time stamped. Faxed submissions are not acceptable.

¹“My computer crashed unexpectedly” or other variations of the lost digital file should not be used as excuses for late submission (keep copies of your work).

UPDATED SCHEDULE!!!

Date	Session	Lecture Topics
Sep 5	1	Overview What is Urban Design?
Sep 12	2	The Design Theories of Kevin Lynch
Sep 19	3	Built Environment-Human Behavior Interactions -1
Sep 26	4	Lab Session (Introduction to Photoshop and Panorama Factory) Subject to lab availability; may be rescheduled
Oct 3		<i>No class (College follows a Monday schedule)</i>
Oct 10	5	The Design Theories of Christopher Alexander
Oct 17	6	Built Environment-Human Behavior Interactions-2
Oct 24	7	TBD (Lab/Field Trip)
Oct 31	8	Theories of the New Urbanism
Nov 7	9	Creating Public Spaces (Design Considerations)
Nov 14	10	Creating Public Spaces (Socio-political Considerations)
Nov 21	11	Creating Public Spaces (Cultural Considerations)
Nov 28	12	The Role of Design Standards and Design Guidelines
Dec 5	13	Designing for Sustainability
Dec 13	14	The Future of Urban Design
Dec 19	15	Urban Design Presentation Techniques and Design Charettes

Available Discussion Dates (2 students lead each session)

Sign Up sheet will be handed out during the first class

1. September 12 (Lynch)
2. September 19 (Environment-Behavior 1)
3. October 10 (Alexander)
4. October 17 (Environment-Behavior 2)
5. October 31 (New Urbanism)
6. November 7 (Public Spaces – Design)
7. November 14 (Public Spaces – Sociopolitical)
8. November 21 (Public Spaces - Cultural)
9. November 28 (Standards and Guidelines)
10. December 5 (Sustainability)
11. December 13 (The Future of Urban Design)
12. December 19 (Design Charettes)

Introduction to Urban Design
Fall 2006
Readings List

Session 1/September 5, 2006

Overview

No readings

Session 2/September 12, 2006

The Design Theories of Kevin Lynch

Required

Lynch/Image of the City, read Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Session 3/September 19, 2006

Built Environment-Human Behavior Interactions 1

Required

Lynch/Good City Form read Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 6

(If you are like me, you'll read the chapters in-between too)

From LeGates and Frederic Stout (2005) ***The City Reader*** on reserve for this course, read

- Jane Jacobs "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety", from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*
- William Whyte "The Design of Spaces" from *City: Rediscovering the Center*
- Dolores Hayden, "What would a non-sexist city be like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work" in Catherine Simpson et.al (eds.), *Women and the American City*

Session 4/Scheduled for September 29, 2006 (Special Friday session)

Photoshop Lab

Meet in Room 606 HW at 9.00 AM

No readings

October 3rd (No Class)

College follows a Monday Schedule

Session 5/October 10, 2006

Design Theories of Christopher Alexander

Required

"The City is not a tree" available on Blackboard

Read up about Christopher Alexander at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Alexander

Make sure you follow the various hyperlinks to understand the basics of pattern language

Recommended Reading

Alexander, C. et.al. 1987. *A New Theory of Urban Design*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.(will be placed on reserve for this course at Hunter Main Library)

Introduction to Urban Design

Fall 2006

Readings List

Section 6/October 17, 2006

The Built Environment-Human Behavior Interactions - 2

Required

In Lynch/Image of the City, read Chapter IV

Cisneros, Henry G. *Defensible space: deterring crime and building community.*

Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, [1995].

(will be placed on reserve for this course at Hunter Main Library)

Session 7/October 24, 2006

Time set aside to complete Assignment 1 field work

No readings

Session 8/October 31, 2006

Theories of the New Urbanism

Talen, E & A. Duany (2002) Transect Planning, JAPA, Volume 68, 3(Available for download on Blackboard)

Dietrick, S & C. Ellis (2004). New Urbanism in the Inner City: A Case Study of Pittsburgh. JAPA Volume 70, 4 (Available for download on Blackboard)

Lund, H (2003). Testing the claims of New Urbanism: Local Access, Pedestrian Travel, and Neighboring Behaviors, JAPA Volume 69, 4 (Available for download on Blackboard)

Also review the website of the Congress for the New Urbanism at www.cnu.org

Schedule for Student-led Discussion Sessions

9.	November 28 (Public Spaces - Cultural)	Lin Zeng
		Chisato Shimada
10.	December 5 (Standards and Guidelines)	Louis Haywood
		Caren Morgan
11.	December 12 (Sustainability)	Michael Kent
		Alison Filosa
12.	December 19 (The Future of Urban Design)	Thomas Smith
		Christopher Zangrilli

Readings

November 21, 2006

Political Considerations in the Design of Public Spaces

Crewe, K (2001) The quality of participatory design: The effects of citizen input on the design of the Boston Southwest corridor, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Volume 67, 4, pp. 437-455

November 28, 2006

Cultural Considerations in the Design of Public Spaces

Day, K (1999). Introducing Gender to the Critique of Privatized Public Space, *Journal of Urban Design*, Volume 4, 2, 155-178

Amir-Ebrahimi (in press). Conquering enclosed public spaces, *Cities* (downloaded from www.elsevier.com/locate/cities)

Madanipour, A (2004). Marginal Public Spaces in European Cities, *Journal of Urban Design*, Volume 9, 3, 267-286

Southworth, M (2005). Reinventing Main Street: From Mall to Townscape Mall, *Journal of Urban Design*, Volume 10, 2, 151-170

December 5, 2006

Design Standards and Guidelines

George, Varkki & Marcia Caton Campbell (2000) Balancing Different Interests in Aesthetic Controls, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 20, 163-175

Punter, J (2002) Urban Design as Public Policy: Evaluating the Design Dimension of Vancouver's Planning System, *International Planning Studies*, Volume 7, 4, pp. 2655-282

Form Based Codes Institute

Look at the Resource Section, <http://www.formbasedcodes.org/resource.html>

Review actual code documents. See links towards the end of the resource page

December 12, 2006

Sustainability

Edwards, B (2006) Benefits of Green Offices in the UK: Analysis from examples built in the 1990s, *Sustainable Development*, Volume 14, pp. 190-204

Williams, K, & C. Dair (2006) A framework of sustainable behaviors that can be enabled through the design of neighborhood scale developments, *Sustainable Development* (in press)

US Green Building Council <http://www.usgbc.org/>

Review material on LEED Green Building Rating System

William McDonough

Learn more about sustainable design work in practice

<http://www.mcdonoughpartners.com>

December 19, 2006

The Future of Urban Design

From the Lang book,

Read all of Part IV (The Future of Urban Design) pp. 362-396

Of course, it may be helpful if you reviewed a few case studies first