

**Research Studio EVDA 782.5 W(0-16)**  
EVDS, University of Calgary, Winter 2013  
Tuesdays and Fridays, 14:00 – 17:50 hrs., Room 2140  
**Instructor:** Marc Boutin, [boutin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:boutin@ucalgary.ca)

# Public Realm/ Public Architecture

(Emergent Form, the Value of an Iterative Design Process or *Body-Building for Architects*)

## Introduction

The studio is structured on the premise that the city is the fundamental collective expression of our society and that architecture is the fundamental city-building element. To this end, the studio will investigate the conceptual collapse of city and architecture as a continuum, both as a product (the expanded threshold of the public realm) and a process (the understanding of the city leading to the innovative definition of architectural space and form). A-priori architectural solutions are not part of the studio culture. Instead, the studio strategically situates creative architectural production at the juncture of how the city operates as a social and cultural medium. The studio's design process bridges the city and architectural production through mapping potentials (finding the site), diagramming design strategies (making the site), and design innovation that is adaptable in the future (the city as an ecology).

Finally, the studio is heavily invested in an iterative process, the fundamental touchstone for design development and excellence.

This research studio is aligned with the seminar EVDS 697.55 *Explorations in the Public Realm*, which has the potential to establish a conceptual and knowledge framework for design investigations in the studio.



## Objectives

1. To develop a quantitative and qualitative knowledge base related to the public realm through observation, research, graphic documentation, building, designing and discussion.
2. To develop representation skills to analyze, interpret, and explore contemporary public realm phenomena, and to articulate design strategies and solutions that emerge from this phenomena.
3. To develop an understanding of design approaches that quantitatively examine architectural solutions in terms of urban conditions.
4. To develop design process skills that are adaptive, responsive, and sponsor excellence.

## Teaching Approach

The course is studio based and as such, students will complete a series of projects which will be reviewed within the studio and serve as a basis for class discussion. Research innovation is prioritized in the culture of the studio, that is, a process-driven design strategy that foregrounds rigor and creativity. Students are encouraged to develop a high degree of ownership of their design process.

## Course Content, Expectations and Evaluation

Students are expected to complete studio projects by the assigned date, pinned up and ready to start at the beginning of the scheduled class time. Students will be expected to present their work to the group and jury members, and to participate in class discussion. Evaluation of the studio projects forms 100% of the course grade.

1. Project 1: **Guerrilla Installation** (Primary Research: Three weeks) 20%. In this project the student studies a particular public realm condition (the Plus 15 System, the Shopping Mall, the Market Place: the space of exchange, the street) and designs and builds a guerrilla installation that engages the spatial reading/performance of this public realm. The student will document the social and cultural phenomena that is at play and that subsequently sponsors the design intervention. In concert with this investigation/installation, each student will write a public realm manifesto that creates a framework (Context, Challenge, Opportunities, Strategies) for the remainder of the term's design work.
2. Project 2: **Emergent Form** (Synthesis Research: Nine Weeks) 80%. In this project the student will explore the notion of *emergent form*, that is, the creation of architecture that is strategically derived from a rigorous mapping and diagramming process. This investment into process creates the opportunity for innovative architectural form while embedding the performance of the architecture as an extension of the public realm: an indispensable infrastructure for the life of the city. Multiple design iterations will allow the student to develop one design intervention to a high level of resolution.

## Grading System

The following grade equivalencies will be used for calculating overall letter grades: A+ (92.5-100%), A (85-92.49), A- (80-84.99), B+ (76-79.99), B (73-75.99), B- (70-72.99), C+ (66-69.99), C (63-65.99), C- (60-62.99), D+ (56-59.99), D (50-55.99), F (0-49.99).

## Schedule

Week 1	January 7 – 11
Week 2	January 14 – 18
Week 3	January 21 – 25
Week 4	January 28 – February 1
Week 5	February 4 – 8
Week 6	February 11 – 15
Week 7	February 18 -22
Week 8	February 25 - March 1
Week 9	March 4 – March 8
Week 10	March 11 – March 15
Week 11	March 18 – March 22
Week 12	March 25 – March 29

## Studio

P1 Primary Research, Guerrilla Installation and Manifesto
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P1 Primary Research, Guerrilla Installation and Manifesto
P1 Review
P2 Emergent Form, Site Mapping/Selection
P2 Emergent Form, Site Mapping/Program Determination
Block Week
P2 Emergent Form, Diagramming Strategies
P2 Emergent Form, Design Intervention(s)
P2 Emergent Form, Design Intervention(s)
P2 Emergent Form, Design Development
P2 Emergent Form, Design Development

Week 13	April 1 – April 5	P2 Emergent Form, Design Development
Week 14	April 8 – 12	P2 Emergent Form, Design Development
Week 15	April 15 – 19	Studio Reviews

### **Selected General References**

Allen, Stan. "Points and Lines: Diagrams and Projects for the City." Princeton Architectural Press (1999).  
 Low, Setha. Smith, Neil. "The Politics of Public Space." Routledge. New York (2006)  
 Low, Setha. "Spatializing Culture: The Social Production and Social Construction of Public Space in Costa Rica." American Ethnologist, Vol. 23, No. 4 (1996). 861-879.  
 Lefebvre, Henri. "The Production of Space." Wiley-Blackwell (1991)

### **Mandatory Supplementary Fees**

In EVDA 782 Senior Architecture Studios, a mandatory supplementary course fee of \$25 exists.

### **Notes:**

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>); Graduate Student representative( <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).