University of Calgary | School of Architecture, Planning + Landscape | Fall 2019 EVDA 782 | Senior Research Studio | F(0-8) | Tokyo Japan

# Senior Research Studio: Urban Tokyo | Urban Typologies | Urban Design









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#### Instructor:

Dr. Brian R. Sinclair, PhD DrHC FRAIC AIA (Intl)

#### **Preamble**

DESIGN:

To create, fashion, execute, or construct according to a plan.
To conceive and plan out in the mind; to have as a purpose; to devise for a specific function or end.
To indicate with a distinctive mark, sign or name.
To make a drawing, pattern or sketch.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)

"Major cities around the world today are caught up in intense and complex competition.

The stakes in these processes of global inter-city interaction are extremely high."

Global Power City Index 2015, Institute for Urban Strategies - Mori Memorial Foundation

Architecture, Planning and Urban Design are powerful and limitless vehicles for realizing positive change in our world. The disciplines of Environmental Design (e.g., Architecture, Planning, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design, Industrial Design, etc.) are increasingly focusing attention on the capacity and capability afforded through interdisciplinary practice and integrated design processes. Without question architecture, planning and urban design are potent forces that need to be understood, developed and deployed in our efforts to heighten the quality of life in our communities.

The world is now more urban than rural, with significant implications for the design disciplines. Coupled to growing urban realms is our increasing awareness of climate change and its many implications. Cities and buildings stand as major contributors to such phenomenon. However, they also loom as tremendous instruments to change directions. Architecture, Planning and Urban Design hold fundamental places in our society. Architects, Planners and Urbanists have real obligations and opportunities at the present juncture. "Urban Tokyo | Urban Typologies | Urban Design" presents us with a lens through which pressing dilemmas can be critically considered and meaningfully explored. Political dialogue, social change, intercultural sharing and 'seeing through the eyes of the other' all present rich possibilities for contemporary development, professional advancement and international harmony. A major objective of the present studio is to explore urban conditions, analyze urban dimensions and synthesize urban responses that, while proving professionally competent and viable, also push our understanding concerning the potential of architecture, urban design & planning to make a difference to a world in need. The studio project presents a unique opportunity to explore how planning, urban design and architecture can serve as potent vehicles to acknowledge, reflect and celebrate the identity and culture of place while concurrently providing opportunities for understanding more universal concepts and constructs.

The interdisciplinary-focused studio, based in Tokyo, will intertwine cultural, spiritual, social and design experiences in the field with more time-honoured studio-type learning. Each week the class will be walking around the Tokyo metropolitan region, visiting projects, participating in events, working with local environmental design professionals, and critically considering the city, its districts and its buildings. A key goal is to take

advantage of the 'city as laboratory' and to critically consider many aspects of architecture, urban design and planning that contribute to Tokyo's premier position as one of the planet's most intriguing, dynamic, pioneering, walk-able and liveable urban centers.

Studio projects will be conducted in small agile teams. The studio will focus on a single project over our time in Tokyo – namely "Urban Tokyo | Urban Typologies | Urban Design". In our time in Japan we will move from an open exploration of city and region, to a critical analysis of space delineation & utilization, through to the conceptual development and delineation of urban responses (that encompass the street, the landscape, the site, and the building).

# Defining and Delineating "Urban Tokyo | Urban Typologies | Urban Design"

**TYPOLOGY** 

noun: typology; plural noun: typologies
\* a classification according to general type, especially in archaeology, psychology, or the social sciences.
\* study or analysis using typology.
\* the study and interpretation of types and symbols

"Appropriate solutions to some of our most daunting problems will arise through the concerted efforts, open dialogue, and collective wisdom of the wide array of stakeholders, professionals, politicians, decision makers, and citizens (both engaged and disenfranchised) who have the will and wherewithal to make a difference and to make the world safer, healthier, and better. It seems vital for us to critically examine, and question, our belief systems and their connections to the ways we define, refine, and realize progress". Sinclair, 2015, Cybernetics + Systems

The Japan-based Senior Research Studio in Fall 2019 considers the rich, complex and multifarious urban realm of Tokyo - the planet's largest urban settlement. Students, working in small interdisciplinary teams will be engaged in observation and study of the city's fabric, with an initial goal of gaining some familiarity and comfort with space and place. Following from this base overview, teams will be conducting more detailed analyses of selected areas of the metropolitan region, with a particular emphasis on districts and sites in proximity to major water ways and bodies (river, canal, lake, sea, etc.). Critical analyses, coupled with study of international precedents, will reveal some common features and design dimensions that characterize 'typologies'. Some typologies may reflect commonly accepted space/place types (e.g., streets, squares, parks, etc.) while others will chart new ground. The objective of this analytical component of the studio is to gain, as a broader cohort comprising all teams, a deeper understanding of approaches to urban design and development in the greater Tokyo area. Building from this shared understanding, individual teams will consider one or more interventions into the urban fabric, with a goal to synthesize, propose and delineate a conceptual urban design response. The intervention will not be the detailed design of a building nor the shaping of a finite plan, but rather demands a more holistic, creative, comprehensive and integrated urban design proposal that considers figure and ground, solid & void, streets, landscapes + buildings, and space & place at an preliminary conceptual levels. The urban design responses should find a healthy balance of people + place, process + product, creativity + innovation, context + culture, integration + provocation, and, critically, viability + sustainability.

## **Objectives**

"Emptiness does not merely imply simplicity of form, logical sophistication, and the like. Rather emptiness provides a space within which our imaginations can run free, vastly enriching our powers of perception and mutual comprehension."

Kenya Hara, 2008 (Shiro)

The emphasis of the Tokyo Studio is especially on the cultural, social and environmental (i.e. sustainability) potential of explorations and interventions of and in the urban fabric. The studio will explore the relationships between the public realm, architectural form, compelling landscapes, cultural identity and sense of place. The basic curricular objectives incorporate a deep and meaningful exploration and analysis of the complex fabric of Tokyo as well as taking steps to develop one or more interventions that prove challenging, effectual, meaningful and appropriate. Consideration will be given to user needs and human dimensions, including environmental perception, symbolism and meaning, ergonomics and adaptability, cultural sensitivity and place-making.

This studio addresses planning, urban design and architectural aspirations and requirements in a spirit of interdisciplinary education and practice. Projects will be conducted in teams with all teams focused on similar problems, scales, processes and deliverables. The work of the studio will be contextualized within the greater goals of study abroad and professional education, with the balance of field/classroom activities front of mind.

# Requirements

The studio carefully considers pedagogical aims for environmental design students. As such the deliverables for each phase of studio, and the associated reviews, will strike a necessary and valuable balance between disciplinary means, methods, processes and products. Teams will be working and learning together in a spirit of sharing, cooperation and common growth. The studio intentionally investigates the multifaceted and meaningful ethos of urban design that lies between planning and architecture yet proves critical to both. Specific objectives and deliverables will be given, at a later date, for each of the three phases of studio.

## Grading

Reviews will occur at the end of each assignment and grades will be given at each of those milestones. Grades will be cumulative through the semester, and will count according to time allotment for each assignment. Students are expected to meet all requirements for each assignment to receive a passing grade. In general grades will be based on the following (depending on the topic and the assignment): development (process) 30%, conclusion (product) 30%, presentation 30%, attendance and participation 10%.

**Grading Scale**Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
В	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
С	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Notes: Passing grades must be achieved on all assignments weighted over 30% of the total course assessment. A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript. Students are expected to complete all course assignments on time. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 30% or more they will fail the course. A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded may request to have the paper regraded. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within **fifteen days** of being notified of the mark or of the item's return to the class. More information can be found in the Graduate Calendar: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html

#### Schedule F.2019

#### Weeks 1 - 4 IMMERSION

Urban Tokyo: Exploration, Observation, Understanding & Inventory

Urban Typologies: Research, Analyses, Definition & Delineation of Typologies

Week of September 16<sup>th</sup> - Silver Week (National Holiday Period) | studio will be closed

Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> – Urban Tokyo & Urban Typologies Review 1 (25%)

#### Weeks 5 - 8 DISCOVERY

**Urban Delineation:** Grasping the Grain and Characterizing the Culture

Urban Ideation: Site Selection, Analysis and Conceptual Planning/Design

Week of October 21st - EVDS Block Week | studio will be closed

Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup> – Urban Delineation + Urban Ideation Review (35%)

## Weeks 9 - 12 INTERVENTION

<u>Urban Design</u>: Intervention, Synthesis, Development & Communication

Urban Details: Defining, Refining and Depicting Architecture and Planning

Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Urban Design & Urban Details Review (40%)

Notes: \*The studio phases intentionally + assertively overlap. The schedule is subject to change. All review dates are tentative.

### **Recommended Textbook:**

LeGates, Richard T. + Stout, Frederic (Editors). (2016) The City Reader. (6th Edition). Urban Reader Series. Routledge: London, UK.

## **Bibliography:**

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Biswas, Ramesh Kumar. (Editor) (2000) Metropolis Now! Urban Cultures in Global Cities. SpringerWein: New York.

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Hein, Carola, Diefendorf, Jeffry M, and Ishida, Yorifusa (Ed). (2003) Rebuilding Urban Japan After 1945. Palgrave Macmillan: Hampshire UK.

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Sinclair, Brian R. Culture, Context, and the Pursuit of Sustainability: Contemplating Problems, Parameters, and Possibilities in an Increasingly Complex World. In: *Planning for Higher Education*, Ann Arbor: Oct.-Dec. 2009. 38-1, pp. 6-22.

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#### Media and Recording in Learning Environments

### Part 1

University Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html

Recording of lectures (other than audio recordings that are pre-arranged as part of an authorized accommodation) is not permitted. Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor or authorization from Student Accessibility Services. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

#### Part 2

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture.

The instructor will notify all students and guests in the class that the event is being recorded. If a student or guest wants to take steps to protect privacy, and does not want to be recorded, the instructor will provide the individual (s) with an alternative means of participating and asking questions (e.g., passing written notes with questions). Students cannot be penalized for choosing not to be recorded in situations where participation is part of the course. Students must be offered other ways of earning participation credit that do not involve recording. Any video-recording would be intended to only capture the instructor and the front of the classroom. Students/other participants would not necessarily be visible on video recordings.

#### **Special Budgetary Requirements**

Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation. Instructors are required to list and describe approved optional and mandatory supplementary fees for courses. This can include possible costs incurred for special materials, equipment, services, or travel. The \$150 supplemental fees for all studio courses is charged to cover workshop costs of use and maintenance of hand tools, assorted power tools, CNC routers, laser cutters, 3D printers, and robotics.

#### Optional:

For certain courses students may be given the option of purchasing course readings. In these cases the cost of the reading package should be stated in the course outline. When course readings are available for purchase, a minimum of two copies of the readings must be made available at the SAPL Reception.

#### Mandatory:

The University has approved supplemental fees for the following courses:

2019/2020 SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE FEES

ARST 484/EVDA 580 - Studio I Design Thinking	\$150.00
ARST 444/EVDA 582 - Studio II in Architecture	\$150.00
EVDA 682.02 – Intermediate Studio	\$150.00
EVDA 682.04 - Comprehensive Arch. Studio	\$150.00
EVDA 782 - Senior Arch. Studio (all Calgary sections)	\$150.00
EVDL 639 – Landscape Response to Climate Change	\$90.00
EVDL 667 – Landscape Architecture Studio I	\$150.00
EVDL 668 – Landscape Architecture Studio II	\$150.00
EVDL 767 – Regional Landscape Systems Studio	\$150.00
EVDL 777 – Senior Research Studio in Landscape Architecture	\$150.00
EVDS 620 – Urban Design Studio	\$150.00
EVDS 640 – Regional Planning Studio	\$90.00
EVDP 625 – Site Planning Studio	\$75.00
EVDP 626 – Landscape Planning and Ecological Design	\$125.00
EVDP 636 – Community Planning Studio	\$150.00
EVDP 644 – Advanced Professional Planning Studio	\$150.00

University of Calgary Policies and Supports

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <a href="www.ucalgary.ca/access/">www.ucalgary.ca/access/</a>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf">http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf</a>.

#### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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, (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. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a>

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<a href="www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf">www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf</a>) and requirements of the copyright act

(https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

#### UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/">https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/</a>

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines

## **Contact & Office Information**

Dr. Brian R. Sinclair | brian.sinclair@ucalgary.ca Please contact instructor with questions/concerns. Meetings by appointment.

"At some point architecture lost its mission to change society. It is largely because architecture has become a tool of capital. But I believe that, limited as it may be, architecture still has a power to propose something to society, or has some role to play in society." Toyo Ito, 2012 (Forces of Nature)







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