Urban Design Theory

EVDS 671 H (3-0)

Tuesdays 9:30 - 12:20 Fall 2017

Instructor

Dr. Beverly A. Sandalack

sandalack@ucalgary.ca 403 220 4517 Office: PF 3102

Teaching Assistant

Chika Daniels-Akunekwe

chika.danielsakunekwe.ucalgary.ca

Introduction

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to theories, concepts, methods, and contemporary issues in urban design. The course consists of lectures, seminars, and assignments.

What is Urban Design? In 1956, at what is acknowledged to have been the first Urban Design Conference, held at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Jose Luis Sert articulated a concern for the development of a common ground within the professions that requires them to play "unheroic roles". He advocated bringing together the professions involved in the development of the city, in order to get a total picture of the physical environment by the integration of their efforts. Although subsequent conferences were not able to arrive at a conclusive definition of urban design and its sphere of operation, urban design has persisted as an area of concern. There are still relatively few formal programs of urban design (for example, EVDS offered one of only two degree programs in urban design in Canada from 2002-2007). Although the definition of "urban designer" is not determined by any particular professional organization, urban design is of great importance to all disciplines dealing with environmental design.

Urban design deals with three-dimensional design of the built urban environment at the scale of the street, neighbourhood, and city, providing integration between landscape and buildings, and with the processes and strategies of development. Urban design is at the intersection of several disciplines. By focusing on the public nature of all urban development, and by bridging the traditional jurisdictions of many professions, urban design has the potential scope to address the wholeness of the city. In this course, urban design is considered to be an approach as well as a methodology for city-building, and it involves, and links, various professions involved in the design of human settlements, including architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Issues of local and regional identity and sustainability also inform the course.

Objectives

- 1. To develop the skills, techniques & vocabulary to describe, analyze and understand urban form and its evolution
- 2. To critically review theories, methods and concepts in urban design
- 3. To understand contemporary issues affecting urban development, urban quality and urban life
- 4. To be able to critically analyze urban form in terms of various qualities and metrics
- 5. To be able to articulate a personal approach to urban design

Content

Several seminal lectures and guest panels will cover the following inter-related topics:

Why Urban Design?

- overview of the evolution of urban form, & the planning & design ideas influencing urban development
- urban design as an approach / a way of thinking / a state of mind
- who is involved in the design and development of the urban physical environment?

Urban process and form

- urban morphology and typology
- schools of thought, methods, approaches

Making better places

- the qualities of good urban form
- the public realm and its evolution
- local and regional identity and sense of place

Several assignments will allow students to explore

- approaches and methods of urban analysis
- contemporary urban design issues

Evaluation

1. Public Space Analysis 30% (due 20 October)

2. Points of View 35% (scheduled during November classes)

3. Urban Design Manifesto 35% (due 5 December)

Total 100%

Bonus assignment (optional) 5% (due 11 December)

A passing grade (B-) is each section is required in order to pass the course as a whole. Work completed as a group or pair will receive a common grade, unless it is clear to the instructor, or identified by the team prior to the due date of the project, that the balance of the work has been unfairly distributed between team members, in which case this will be discussed with the team members. All assignments will be evaluated by letter grades. Final course grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range, as per the EVDS gradjng scheme. There will be no final examination. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation of all course components.

1. Public Space Analysis - worth 30% of the course grade

In this assignment, students will document and analyze a public space and its context (location is your choice), based on the methods/approaches covered in the course. This will provide an opportunity for you to develop / refine skills in documentation and analysis, and to apply and gain better understanding of various theories of urban design. **Completed in pairs.**

2. Points of View - worth 35% of the course grade

This assignment is intended to allow deep consideration of an issue of concern in contemporary urban design. It will also develop your critical thinking skills and your ability to present a reasoned argument. Teams will select an issue to debate from a circulated list, and develop a reasoned, referenced, argument, illustrated as appropriately with slides. You will have a choice of the issue to debate, and whether you will argue for or against the statement. Debates will be scheduled for the second half of the course. Each team will also submit a written, referenced, summary of their argument. **Completed in teams of 2-3 students per side.**

3. Urban Design Manifesto - worth 35% of the course grade

This project provides an opportunity for each student to synthesize what they have learned in this class and others, to reflect on the qualities of the public realm and how they are expressed in various locales, and to distill into a series of illustrated statements. These statements will be presented on cards of a standardized format. **Completed individually.**

4. Bonus Assignment - worth 5% of the course grade

As an option, students may complete a bonus assignment. The Canadian Institute of Planners is constructing a visual histories timeline, and is welcoming contributions. These are brief (approx. 100 word) descriptions of Canadian planning/urban design highlights, plus an image and caption.

Refer to detailed project briefs for requirements for all 4 assignments.

Readings

Specific readings may be assigned. Students are encouraged to read widely from the general reference list below. It is expected that students will have a general understanding of the history of cities. Students without this background are strongly advised to read either Morris, AEJ (1979) *History of Urban Form* or Mumford, L (1961) *The City in History* prior to or early in the term. I encourage you to acquire one of the urban design readers. Make use of various online used book resources (such as Abe Books).

URBAN DESIGN REFERENCES Short List

urban design / city readers, compendia and standards (older editions are also fine):

American Planning Association (2006) Planning and Urban Design Standards (Wiley Graphic Standards)

Carmona, Matthew and Steve Tiesdell (2007) Urban Design Reader, Architectural Press

English Partnerships (several printings) *The Urban Design Compendium*. You can order this (it is FREE) on line from http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/PublicationsOrderForm.aspx

Grant, Jill (2007) Reader in Canadian Planning: Linking Theory and Practice, Thompson Nelson Canada, Scarborough

Jencks, Charles and Karl Kropf (eds.) (1997) Theories/Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture Academy Editions

Larice, Michael and Elizabeth Macdonald (2007) The Urban Design Reader, Routledge

LeGates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout (1996) The City Reader, Routledge

recommended:

Alexander, Christopher et al (1977) A Pattern Language (Oxford University Press)

Bacon, Edmund N. (1974) Design of Cities (New York: Penguin Books)

Bentley, Ian. et al (1985) Responsive Environments: A Manual for Designers (Architectural Press)

Calthorpe, Peter (1993) The Next American Metropolis (New York: Princeton Architectural Press)

Ellin, Nan (1996) Postmodern Urbanism (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers)

Gehl, Jan (1987) Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space

Hough, Michael (1990) Out of Place: Restoring Identity to the Regional Landscape (Yale University Press)

Hough, Michael (1994) Cities and Natural Process (Routledge)

Jacobs, Jane (1961) The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York: Random House)

Jacobs, Alan B., Elizabeth MacDonald and Yodan Rofe (2002) The Boulevard Book (MIT Press)

Lynch, Kevin (1971) Site Planning (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press) or later versions with Garry Hack

Lynch, Kevin (1981) (A Theory of) Good City Form (Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press)

McHarg, Ian (1969, reprinted 1994) Design With Nature (New York: Doubleday)

Newton, Norman (1971) Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture (Harvard University Press)

Relph, Edward (1987) The Modern Urban Landscape (London: Croom Helm)

Sandalack, Beverly A & Andrei Nicolai (2006) The Calgary Project: urban form/urban life (University of Calgary Press)

Trancik, Roger (1986) Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

URBAN DESIGN REFERENCES Long List

History of Settlements and Urban Form

Bacon, Edmund N. (1974) Design of Cities (New York: Penguin Books)

Benevelo, L. (1967) *The Origins of Modern Town Planning* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Davis, Howard (2000) *The Culture of Building* (Oxford University Press)

Kalman, Harold (ed.) (1994) A History of Canadian Architecture (Oxford University Press)

Kostoff, Spiro (1992) The City Assembled: the Elements of Urban Form Through History

Kostoff, S. (1991) The City Shaped: Urban Patterns/Meanings Through History (Boston:Little Brown)

Morris, A.E.J. (1979) History of Urban Form (New York: John Wiley and Sons)

Mumford, Lewis (1961) *The City in History* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)

Rees, R. (1988) New & Naked Land - Making the Prairies Home (Saskatoon: West. Prod. Prairie Books)

Reps, John (1965) The Making of Urban America: A History of Urban Planning in the US (Princeton U. Press)

Reps, John (1979) Cities of the Way West: A History of the Frontier of Urban Planning (Princeton)

Roberts, Brian K. (1996) Landscapes of Settlement (London: Routledge)

Slater, Terry R. (ed.) (1990) The Built Form of Western Cities (London: Leicester Univ. Press)

Vance, James E. Jr. (1990) *The Continuing City: Urban Morphology in Western Civilisation* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press)

Urban Form and Process/Urban Design

Alexander, Christopher et al (1977) A Pattern Language (Oxford University Press)

Alexander, Christopher et al (1987) A New Theory of Urban Design (Oxford University Press)

Arendt, Randall et al (1994) Rural by Design: Maintaining Small Town Character (Washington, DC: APA)

Banham, Rayner (1960) Theory and Design in the First Machine Age (Praeger)

Banham, Rayner (1971) Los Angeles: the Architecture of Four Ecologies (Harper and Row)

Bentley, Ian et al (1985) Responsive Environments: A Manual for Designers (London: Arch. Press)

Blumenfeld, Hans (1967) Paul Spreiregen (ed) *Metropolis and Beyond: Selected Essays by Hans Blumenfeld* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Boyer, M. Christine (1998) The City of Collective Memory: Its Historical Imagery and Architectural Entertainments (Cambridge: MIT Press)

CABE (Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment) publications in the UK - www.cabe.org.uk/

Calvino, Italo (1972) *Invisible Cities* (New York: Harcourt Brace and Co.)

Charette, Catherine (ed) (1995) Issues in Canadian Urban Design (Winnipeg: Institute for Urban Studies)

Clay, Grady (1973) Close-Up: How to Read the American City (University of Chicago Press)

Condon, Patrick M. (ed.) (1996) Sustainable Urban Landscapes: the Surrey Design Charrette (UBC)

Cullen, Gordon (1961, reprinted 1971) (The Concise) Townscape (London: Architectural Press)

Duany, Andres and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk (1991) Towns and Town-Making Principles (Rizzoli)

Duany, A, E Plater-Zyberk, and R Alminana (2003) The New Civic Art: Elements of Town Planning (Rizzoli)

Ellin, Nan (1996) *Postmodern Urbanism* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers)

Fowler, Edmund D. (1992) Building Cities That Work (McGill - Queen's)

Gerecke, Kent (ed.) (1992) The Canadian City (Montreal: Black Rose Books)

Gehl, Jan (1987) Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space (New York: Van Nostrand Reihnold)

Harvey, David (1989) The Urban Experience (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University)

Hayward, Richard and Sue McGlynn (eds) (1993) *Making Better Places: Urban Design Now* (Joint Centre for Urban Design: Butterworths)

Hillier, Bill and Julienne Hansen (1984) The Social Logic of Space (Cambridge University Press)

Holdsworth, Deryck (ed) (1985) Reviving Main Street (University of Toronto Press)

Hough, Michael (1990) Out of Place: Restoring Identity to the Regional Landscape (Yale University Press)

Howard, Ebenezer (reprinted 1965) Garden Cities of Tomorrow (London: Faber)

Jacobs, Jane (1961) The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York: Random House)

Jacobs, Alan B. (1993) Great Streets (MIT Press)

Jacobs, Alan B., Elizabeth MacDonald and Yodan Rofe (2002) The Boulevard Book (MIT Press)

Keith, M. and S. Pile (eds.) (1993) *Place and the Politics of Identity* (London: Routledge)

Katz, Peter (1994) The New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community (McGraw Hill)

Krier, Rob (1979) Urban Space (New York: Rizzoli)

Krier, Leon (1984) Houses, Palaces, Cities D. Porphyrios (ed.) (Arch. Design Profile, Berlin: Belvedere)

LeGates, R.T. and F. Stout (eds.) (1996) *The City Reader* (Routledge)

Lynch, Kevin (1960) *The Image of the City* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Lynch, Kevin (1981) A Theory of Good City Form (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Madanipour, Ali (1996) Design of Urban Space: An Inquiry into Socio-Spatial Process (NY: Wiley)

Moore, Charles (2001) You have to pay for the public life (MIT Press)

Rapoport, Amos (1977, reprinted 1980) Human Aspects of Form (Toronto: Pergamon Press)

Relph, Edward (1976) Place and Placelessness (London: Pion Ltd.)

Relph, Edward (1981) Rational Landscapes & Humanistic Geography (London: Croom Helm)

Relph, Edward (1987) The Modern Urban Landscape (London: Croom Helm)

Rossi, Aldo (1982) The Architecture of the City (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Sandalack, BA and A Nicolai (2006) The Calgary Project: urban form/urban life (Calgary: University of Calgary Press)

Sandalack, BA and A Nicolai (1998) Urban Structure – Halifax: An Urban Design Approach (Halifax: Tuns Press)

Sennett, Richard (1990) The Conscience of the Eye: The Design & Social Life of Cities (NY: Norton)

Sitte, Camillo (1889, reprinted 1965) City Building According to Artistic Principles (New York: Random House)

Trancik, Roger (1986) Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

Tugnutt, Anthony and Mark Robertson (1987) *Making Townscape: a Contextual Approach to Building in an Urban Setting* (London: Mitchell Publishing Co. Ltd.)

Unwin, Raymond (1909) Town Planning in Practice: an Introduction to the Art of Designing Cities and Suburbs (New York: Princeton Architectural Press)

Venturi, Robert, Denise Scott Brown and Steve Izenour (1977) Learning from Las Vegas (MIT Press)

Vidler, A, and L. Krier (eds.) (1978) Rational Architecture (Brussells: Archives of Modern Architecture)

Whitehand, J.W.R. and P.J. Larkham, eds. (1992) *Urban Landscapes: International Perspectives* (London and New York: Routledge)

Whyte, William H. (1980) The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces (Washington DC: Conservation Foundation)

Landscape Architecture/Natural Form & Process/Cultural Landscapes

Appleton, J. (1975) The Experience of Landscape (London: John Wiley)

Corner, James (1999) Recovering Landscape: Essays in Contemporary Landscape Architecture, Princeton Arch Press

Cranz, Galen (1982) The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America (Cambridge: MIT Press)

Evernden, Neil (1986) The Natural Alien (Toronto: University of Toronto Press)

Fairbrother, Nan (1970) New Lives, New Landscapes (New York: A. Knopf)

Friesen, Gerald (1984) The Canadian Prairies: A History (University of Toronto Press)

Hoskins, W.G. (1955) The Making of the English Landscape (London: Penguin Books)

Hough, Michael (1984) City Form and Natural Process (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

Hough, Michael (1994) Cities and Natural Process (Routledge)

Jackson, J.B. (1970) Landscapes: Selected Writings of J. B. Jackson, ed. E.H. Zube (Amherst: U Mass. Press)

Jackson, J.B. (1984) Discovering the Vernacular Landscape (New Haven: Yale University Press)

Laurie, Michael (1975) An Introduction to Landscape Architecture (New York:Elsevier)

Leopold, Aldo (1949) A Sand County Almanac (Oxford University Press)

Lowenthal, D. & E.C. Penning-Rowsell (eds.) (1986) Landscape Meanings & Values (London: Allen & Unwin)

Lowenthal, D. (ed.) (1976) Geographies of the Mind: essays in historical geosophy in honour of John Kirkland Wright (New York: Oxford University Press)

Lynch, Kevin (1976) Managing the Sense of a Region (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Lynch, Kevin (1971) Site Planning (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press) or later versions with Garry Hack

McHarg, Ian (1969, 1994 reprint) Design With Nature (New York: Doubleday)

Meinig, D.W. (ed.) The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes: Geographical Essays (Oxford University Press)

Newton, Norman (1971) Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture (Harvard University Press)

Rees, R. (1988) New & Naked Land - Making the Prairies Home (Saskatoon: West. Prod. Prairie Books)

Sandalack, BA and A Davis (2005) Excursions into the Cultural Landscapes of Alberta (Calgary: Nickle Arts Museum)

Sauer, Carl O. (1963) Land & Life: a selection from the writings of C.O. Sauer (Berkeley: U.Cal. Press)

Spirn, Anne Whiston (1984) The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design (NY: Basic Books)

Treib, Marc (ed.) (1993) Modern Landscape Architecture (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press)

Von Baeyer, E (1984) Rhetoric and Roses: A History of Canadian Gardening (Markham: Fitzhenry and Whiteside)

Waldheim, Charles (2006) The Landscape Urbanism Reader, New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press

Watts, May Theilgaard (1957) Reading the Landscape of America (Rochester: Nature Study Guild)

Wilson, Alexander (1991) *The Culture of Nature: North American Landscape from Disney to the Exxon Valdez* (Toronto: Between the Lines)

Ideas

Bachelard, Gaston (1958) The Poetics of Space (Boston: Beacon Press)

Castells, M. (1989) The Informational City (Oxford:Blackwells)

Davis, Ann and Beverly A Sandalack (2005) Sense of Place: a collection of essays (Calgary:Nickle Arts Museum)

Kingwell, Mark (2000) The World We Want: Virtue, Vice and the Good Citizen (Penguin)

Knox, Paul (ed.) (1988) The Design Professions and the Built Environment (London: Croom Helm Ltd.)

Norberg-Schulz, Christian (1979) Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture (NY: Rizzoli)

Quantrill, M. (1987) The Environmental Memory: Man and Architecture in the Landscape of Ideas (New York: Schocken Books)

Thompson, Darcy (1917, reprinted 1992) On Growth and Form (Dover Reprint)

Venturi, R. (1966) Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture (New York: Doubleday)

Graphic Communication

Cantrell, Bradley (2010) Digital Drawing for Landscape Architecture (Wiley)

Ching, Frank (1975 and newer versions) Architectural Graphics (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

Farrelly, Lorraine Drawing for Urban Design: Portfolio Skills Series

Kirby, Robert, Andrei Nicolai and Beverly A. Sandalack (2002) *Making Better Civic Places: Urban Design at the University of Calgary* (Faculty of Environmental Design)

Landscape Architecture Magazine especially issues that focus on drawings or design awards

Lynch, Kevin and Garry Hack (1984) Site Planning (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass.)

Places, A Forum for Environmental Design, Summer 1996, Vol.10, No.3, and other issues

Porter, Tom and Sue Goodman (1985) Manual of Graphic Techniques 4 for architects, graphic designers and artists (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons)

Smith, Elizabeth A.T. and Russell Fergusen (1994) Urban Revisions (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press)

Stirling, Norman (1970) Introduction to Technical Drawing (Toronto: The MacMillan Company)

Tal, Daniel (2009) Google SketchUp for Site Design (Wiley)

Tufte, Edward (various) Beautiful Evidence, Envisioning Information, The Visual Display of Quantitative Information (Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press)

Walker, T.D. (1977) Plan Graphics (PDA Publishers: Indiana)

Wang, Thomas C. (1979) Plan and Section Drawing (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

White, Edward T. (1983) Site Analysis (Tucson, Ariz.: Architectural Media Ltd.)

Technical

American Planning Association (2006) Planning and Urban Design Standards (Wiley Graphic Standards)

The Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, (1985) *The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing* (Toronto and London: Dundurn Press)

Neufert, Ernst (various editions) Architects' data (London: Crosby Lockwood Staples)

Turabian, Kate (1982) A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, Dissertations (London: Heinemann)

Zeisel, John (1984) Inquiry by Design: Tools for Environment-Behaviour Research (Cambridge University Press

Special Budgetary Considerations

Any site visits in Calgary will be possible on foot or by LRT/bus.

Faculty of Environmental Design Grading Scheme

Note: 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. It 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.

Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	4-Point Range	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	Good performance
В	3.00	2.85-3.14	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	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	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	
F	0.00	0-0.49	

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. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
- 2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (ttaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
- 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 (https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/); Graduate Student representative (http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/) and Student Ombudsman's Office (http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/).