

ARC 7226/ ARCH 8110: THEORY OF URBAN DESIGN [30 CH]

Description

The urban design theory is within the broader developmental planning and design arena and aims at identifying and appreciating the core conceptual framework for, and issues of, urban design theory and practice in relation to urban planning, architecture and cognate disciplines.

Objectives

1. To develop basic values, knowledge and skills pivotal to literacy in urban design.
2. To develop basic diagnostic and evaluatory knowledge and skills, such as to inform the assessment of urban problems suitably the subject of urban design, at a variety of scales.
3. To develop knowledge and skills appropriate to urban design intervention.

Course Content

1. Comprehension of the city in perceptual terms: the overall “image of the city” as concretized by urban elements (paths, edges, districts, nodes landmarks). **[10 CU]**
2. Patterns of urban form (linear, grid, concentric, radial satellite). **[10 CU]**
 - 2.1 Elements of urban form: streets, squares, monuments and urban fabric regarded in their historic development and utility significance (“the architecture of the city”).
3. Theories of urban form: **[10 CU]**
 - 3.1 Group-form, compositional form, mega structure.
 - 3.2 Visual analysis of urban form, townscape and aesthetics; aspects of urban design. Regional case studies.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the students should be able to:

1. Apply the advanced theories of design to analyse urban challenges.
2. Develop pragmatic approaches to design
3. Use past theories to explain urban development trends

Teaching and Learning Pattern

The course will be delivered through a mixture of seminars, illustrations, group discussions and site visits.

Mode of Assessment

Two tests and two seminar papers as continuous assessment will constitute 40% of the overall assessment. Remaining 60% of the assessment will come from the final semester examination.

Mode of Delivery

Lectures/Seminars/ (30 hours), Practicals (0 hours). The total contact hours are 30

Recommended Reference Books/ Literature

1. Alexander, C., Neis, H., Anninou, A. and King, I. (1987) *A New Theory of Urban Design* (Center for Environmental Structure Series, Vol 6)
2. Shane, D. G. (2005) *Recombinant Urbanism: Conceptual Modelling in Architecture, Urban Design and City Theory*
3. McGrath, B. (2008) *Digital Modelling for Urban Design*
4. ElKhoury, R. And Robbins E. (2003) *Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory and Urban Design*
5. Trancki, R. (1986) *Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design*