

# PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

Spring 2015

Photo Credit: Dallas, The Connected City Design Challenge-- <http://connectedcitydesign.com/blog.aspx?id=27>



## CIRP 5325 Physical Planning and Urban Design

**Instructor:** Professor Ivonne Audirac

**Time and Classroom:** Wednesday 7:00PM - 9:50PM, **Room:** 205 Pickard Hall <http://www.uta.edu/maps/>

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**Office Hours:** Thursday 3:00 - 5:00 and by appt.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Of the design disciplines, urban design is the field with the greatest impact on city form and city life. Although its **practice** and **products** (e.g., boulevards, city parks, new capital cities, redeveloped neighborhoods, new towns, or green regional networks) may be associated with names of influential designers and planners (e.g., Eugene von Haussmann, Frederick Law Olmstead, Le Corbusier, Rem Koolhaas, Andres Duany, or Chris Reed) their clients (e.g., Napoleon III, The City of New York, Juscelino Kubitschek (President of Brazil), the City of Los

Angeles, private foundations or the Dallas' Trinity River Competition), urban design is a multidisciplinary (city planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and civil and transportation engineering), capital intensive process of **place making**. It typically involves developers, financial and philanthropic institutions, public decision makers, NGOs and public agencies at national, regional and local levels, and last but not least, the people and communities inhabiting the place. In other words, urban design is a highly complex, capital driven, collaborative and politically charged process and it is often the main driver in place-based economic and community development schemes. This course will introduce students to key urban design concepts and paradigms as well as representative examples illustrated with case studies.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- ☐ Understand and apply the physical elements of city image that users of public space perceive as giving identity to a place.
- ☐ Describe the evolution of the field in terms of the most salient 20<sup>th</sup> century urban design paradigms and the corresponding proposed urbanism solutions to key contemporary urban form and social issues.
- ☐ Critically identify and discuss types of products and procedures of urban design and good urbanism.
- ☐ Apply basic visualization techniques to represent urban design ideas.

Some of the questions this course will address include:

*What are the physical elements that make a city's image?*

In building a basic urban-design vocabulary, this course will refer to Kevin Lynch's city image elements: edges, districts, nodes, paths, and landmarks. These elements come in many different forms (streets, plazas, parks, neighborhoods, etc.) and their layout and organization influence not only the physical form of the city, but also how the city is sensed, perceived, imagined, felt, and lived by its inhabitants. As the built environment changes, the interrelated element assemblage also changes and thus also the image of the city and the way we experience it.

*What is urbanism and what is its relationship with urban design?*

In this course we will adopt Lefebvre's social-production-of-space triad for our understanding of urbanism, which simultaneously involves: (1) the everyday practices and perceptions of the city (the city perceived); (2) the representation of the city by planners, designers, theorists, urbanists, etc., (the city conceived) and (3) the city as lived in the historical moment (the city lived). Urban design dialectically includes all three facets of the social production of space.

## *Who designs cities and how?*

This course will consider planners, architects, landscape architects, and engineers and their clients as the urban-design agents of wider social, political and economic forces. These agents are primarily responsible for the city conceived and lived. The role and tools used by these agents in shaping the built environment have evolved in response to challenges to dominant urbanism views and urban-design paradigms.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **Texts**

**Required:** Kevin Lynch "The Image of the City." Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960  
Jon Lang "Urban Design." Oxford: Architectural Press, 2005  
Nan Ellin "Good Urbanism." Washington: Island Press, 2013

### **Assignments: Intersection Redesign (55%)**

A major assignment of this course is a redesign of a large intersection. Groups of two or three students will be assigned one of the main UTA intersections.

- **Phase One** (30%, due March 18): Your job is to (1) inventory the area's image elements following Lynch's approach and evaluate, through field analysis, interviews and cognitive mapping how visitors to the area interpret them; also identify any current assets worth conserving.
- **Phase Two** (25%, due May 13): following Ellin's 6 steps to good urbanism, develop a conceptual action plan for the site that introduces at a minimum five of the 16 themes of good urbanism (e.g., pedestrian friendly scale, enhanced multimodality and quality of place—walkability, bikeability, TOD, nature in the city, adaptive reuse, etc.).

**Exam** (30%) A second requirement is an exam covering material from Jon Lang's "Urban Design" focusing on the selected urban design proposals for the Dallas Trinity River's "Connected City Competition."

**Class participation** (15%) based on attendance and involvement in class presentations and discussions.

The style (not the substance) of any written component of your assignments will be graded based on the MCRP Term Paper Rubric available at:

[https://mavspace.uta.edu/xythoswfs/webview/sharelogin.action?sharedFileID=1692656\\_1&ticketID=t\\_1xO6ATUZ](https://mavspace.uta.edu/xythoswfs/webview/sharelogin.action?sharedFileID=1692656_1&ticketID=t_1xO6ATUZ)

**DROP POLICY** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self- service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. April 3, last day to drop a class. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/> ).

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2*, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education,

advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE @ A GLANCE**

(detailed schedule available in this course's blackboard site)

**0** | January 21 – Course Introduction

**1** | January 28 –The Image of the City | – The Public Realm: Focus of Urban Design (UD) | + The Tao of Urbanism

**2** | February 4 – Eliciting the Public Image of the City | An Urban-Design Typology & UD: The Products of City Planning | + City Image Interviews.

**3** | February 11 – City Conceived: Interpreting & Illustrating the Image of the City. | – UD: The Products of Landscape Architecture



**4** | February 18 – City Image and its Elements | – UD: The Products of Architecture

**5** | February 25 – City Form | – Total Urban Design

**6** | March 4 – All-of-A-Piece-Urban Design: New Towns, Green and Brownfield Precincts | – Good Urbanism, A Path to Prosperity

**7** | March 11 – SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

**8** | March 18 – All-of-A-Piece-Urban Design: Urban Renewal, Campuses, Housing, Waterfronts | –The Tao of Urbanism (2)

**9** | March 25 – Piece-by-Piece Urban Design | – Co-creation

**10** | April 1 – The Future of Urban Design | – The New Design with Nature

**11** | April 8 – The Art of Urbanism | – Review

**12** | April 15 – EXAM

**13** | April 22 – Beyond Sustainability to Prosperity

**14** | April 29 – Paper Preparation

**15** | May 6 – Presentation of Proposal in Class

**16** | May 13 – FINAL PROJECT DUE