This seminar is required for MS.Urban Design students, strongly recommended for M.Arch/MCRP dual degree students, and open to all others. Prior familiarity with architectural history is a plus and the course is not recommended for students in the first year of the 3.5-year M.Arch.

Organization
The course will equip students with an understanding of the foundational ideas and strategies that we confront and debate when we engage an urban design project. The bulk of the course is organized around four perennial urban design themes. Each theme will be the focus for two weeks with lectures, assigned “classic” texts that are recognized as important foundations for each theme, and class discussions. How do the different authors propose that territory should be organized? How do they treat public space? How do they treat private space? In addition to the “classic” texts, other brief readings will support the primary text, expand it, or criticize it. The four themes are:

**Incremental and Empirical.** The primary text will be Jane Jacobs’ *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Additional readings and discussion will include ideas from everyday urbanism, pattern language, and others.

**Typology and Morphology.** The primary texts will be Aldo Rossi’s *Architecture and the City* and Rem Koolhaas’ *Delirious New York*. Additional readings and discussion will include discussion of the neorationalist city, urban morphology, and space syntax.

**Context and Composition.** The primary text will be Colin Rowe’s *As I Was Saying: Urbanistics*. Additional readings and discussion will include the arguments for and against masterplanning and contextualism, including “Lite Urbanism,” parametric urbanism and tactical urbanism.

**Ecology and Environment.** The primary texts will be Ian McHarg’s *Design With Nature* and Peter Calthorpe’s *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change*. Additional readings and discussions will discuss debates on resilience and between new urbanism and landscape urbanism.

Discussions of historical and contemporary urban design movements will bracket the readings of the classic texts. The seminar will begin with overviews of urban design theories as they emerged in the 20th Century, (The City Beautiful, the Garden City, and the Modern Urbanism of CIAM) followed by critiques of these ideas, and the current debates among new urbanism, everyday urbanism, landscape urbanism, and others. The final class sessions will open discussion about the contemporary challenges of sprawl, global urbanization and the roles of urban design.
Requirements
Rather than produce a final paper or project, the workload for the course will be spread throughout the term and include one team presentation, three in-class quizzes and weekly summaries of the readings.

Each student is responsible for doing the required reading for each week and submitting a 1-3 page summary to T-Square ahead of class of what they learned, and what questions the reading stimulated for them. This is to assist you in reflecting upon the readings and being prepared for the class discussion. Each reading summary should start with one or two primary questions you formed while reflecting on the readings. The questions are to be followed by a paragraph summarizing the overall subject of the readings — including comparison of different authors’ points of view where appropriate. This should be followed with bullet points from the text that you think are worth remembering and your comments/questions on the readings’ implications for the organization of territory and how the author proposes that public and private space are to be treated. Each class will start with each student writing one of their primary questions on the blackboard as a means to start discussion.

In addition, each week students should prepare for the in-class discussions by reviewing the italicized questions on the syllabus.

Attendance in class is mandatory and students should contact the instructor before class in the case of an excused absence. Students with an excused or unexcused absence from class will be required to prepare an essay or presentation related to the missed discussion. More than one unexcused absence will result in an automatic letter grade reduction.

Evaluation Criteria
The final grade will be determined by the following measures:

- 35% on the completion and quality of weekly summaries of the readings.
- 30% on performance on 3 in-class quizzes.
- 10% on team presentation.
- 25% on participation in class discussions.

Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations must obtain an accommodations letter from the ADAPTS Office [www.adapts.gatech.edu] to ensure appropriate arrangements.

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For policy information on Georgia Tech’s Academic Honor Code, please see [http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules_regulations/#18].

All cell phones should be turned off during class and when entering the classroom.
In case of emergency (i.e. fire, accident, criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 894-2500. Please note that Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator is also a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified in performing CPR.

Class Schedule
1. 8/20 Introduction and Overview
2. 8/27 Late 19th & early 20thC Urban Theories
3. 9/3 Contemporary Debates in Urban Design
4. 9/10 Incremental and Empirical 1: Jacobs’ *Death and Life of Great American Cities*.
5. 9/17 Incremental and Empirical 2
   **Quiz: Readings Weeks 2-5**
6. 9/24 Morphology and Typology 1: The Architecture of the City
7. 10/1 Morphology and Typology 2: Koolhaas: Manhattanism and Atlanta
8. 10/8 Context and Composition 1: Colin Rowe’s Formalism
9. 10/15 Fall Break
10. 10/22 Context and Composition 2: Event-Cities and Post-Architectural Modernity
   **Quiz: Readings 6-10**
11. 10/29 Context and Composition 3: Student Presentations
12. 11/5 Ecology and Environment 1: *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change*
13. 11/12 Ecology and Environment 2: From McHarg to Landscape Urbanism
14. 11/19 Urban Design Theory and Practice 1: N. American Challenges
15. 11/26 Urban Design Theory and Practice 2: Global Challenges
   **Quiz: Readings 12-15**
16. 12/3 Final Reviews – No Class

Readings and Lectures
Students are required to purchase copies of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* and *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change*. These books will be read in their entirety. Students are strongly recommended to purchase copies of *The Architecture of the City*, *Delirious New York*, *Design With Nature*, and *As I Was Saying: Urbanistics*. Significant portions of these books will be read and students will be required to skim those portions not required. All other required texts will either be available as PDF’s in T-Square (marked below with a T), will be on reserve in the architecture library (marked below with an R), or available online at the given website. The “background readings” are not required. They are provided simply as recommendations for further reading at your leisure.

8/20 Week 1: **Introduction and Discussion**
   - Course Overview
   - Class discussion

   *What is theory? What is urban design? How is it different from architecture and city planning? Why do cities distinguish between public and private space? Are such physical distinctions more or less important today?*
• Lecture: Organizing Territory and Framing Thought on Public Space

Background reading:
Lofland, Lynn (1998) Chapter 1, “Toward a Geography and History of the Public Realm” (T)
Gamble, Michael (2003) “The Inscription of “Public” and “Civic” Realms in the Contemporary City” (T) from Writing Urbanism
Arendt, Hannah (1958) “Part II: The Public and the Private Realm”, The Human Condition

8/27 Week 2: Late 19th & early 20thC Urban Theories
• Round Robin of Reading Questions – select the question the readings raised for you that you would most like discussed and write it on the blackboard
• Lecture: The City Beautiful, Garden City and CIAM’s Modern Urbanism (Dagenhart)
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  - What were each of these movements reacting against? Do these movements celebrate (and make figural) the street, the yard/common green, or the building – and what does that say about how they are treating the public vs private realm and what they value? What distinguish the driving goals and design strategies of each? How do they live on today?

Required Reading:
• Stein, Clarence (1956) Radburn (T)
• Stein, Clarence (1956) Sunnyside Gardens (T)
• Perry, Clarence (1929) The Neighborhood Unit. (T)
• Le Corbusier (1923) A Contemporary City (T)

Background Reading:
Sitte, Camillo (1889) The Art of Building Cities
Larson, Erik (2004) The Devil in the White City
Mumford, Lewis (1946) The Garden City Idea and Modern Planning (T)
Howard, Ebenezer (1902) Garden Cities for Tomorrow
Unwin, Raymond (1923) Town Planning In Practice
Unwin, Raymond (1910) Nothing Gained from Overcrowding (T)
Week 3: Contemporary Debates in Urban Design

- Round Robin of Reading Questions
- Lecture: New Urbanism, Everyday Urbanism, and Landscape Urbanism
- Class Discussion- be prepared to discuss the following:
  - Should cities be designed? If so, by whom: architects, planners, landscape architects, individual residents? Who is being designed for?
  - What physical landscapes best promote human freedom and creativity?
  - Should urban design principally serve the ecosystem, the needs/desires of immediate existing residents, the city as a whole, or future residents?

Required Reading:

  - NOTE: this is from a slim book that is on reserve and worth browsing in total, New Urbanism, Peter Calthorpe vs. Lars Lerup, Michigan Debates on Urbanism volume II. (R)
- Crawford, Margaret (1999) “Introduction” from Everyday Urbanism (T)
- Browse Everyday Urbanism (R)

Background Reading:

- www.cnu.org
- www.planetizen.com
- www.places.designobserver.com
- www.theatlanticcities.com
- www.landscapecandurbanism.blogspot.com
- www.urbalize.com
- www.sustainablecitiescollective.com

Waldheim, Charles, ed., The Landscape Urbanism Reader

9/10  Week 4: Incremental and Empirical: Jane Jacobs
• Round Robin of Reading Questions
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  Are the lessons learned from 1950’s Greenwich Village relevant to contemporary cities? What is Jacobs’ method for learning about cities? Why has this book been so influential?

Required Reading:

Background Reading:
Jacobs, Jane (2005) Dark Age Ahead
Flint, Anthony (2009) Wrestling With Moses; How Jane Jacobs Took on New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City
Jacobs, Allan (1994) Great Streets
Lynch, Kevin (1960) The Image of the City
Lynch, Kevin, (1984) Good City Form

9/17  Week 5: Incremental and Empirical:
• Quiz: Readings Weeks 2-5
• Round Robin of Reading Questions
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  What are the conflicts between operating incrementally versus establishing aprion larger frameworks, let alone master plans? To what extent is what you observe of urbanism in the present or from the past applicable to the future? What is the role of the imagination in incremental and empirical work? To the degree that the incremental is linked to organic, emergent and generative patterns – is it in conflict with the urbanism based on empirical rulemaking?
• Reading Preparation Lecture: Neo-Rationalism

Required Reading:
• Alexander, Christopher (1966) “A City is Not a Tree”(T)
• Gehl, Jan, Kaefer, Johansen, Lotte and Reigstad, Solveig (2006) “Close Encounters with Buildings” (T)
• Kaliski, John (1999) “The Present City and the Practice of City Design” (T)
scroll down and read the next item “The Canons of Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism”. Then go across to “resources” and click on “Project database” to browse some of the projects.

Background Reading:
Alexander, Christopher (1987) *A New Theory of Urban Design*
Jackson, J.B., (1986) *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape*
Jackson, J. B., (1996) *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Time*
Holly Whyte, (1980) *Social Life of Small Public Spaces*
Mehaffy, Michael (2013) “Pattern Lingo” (T) from *Charter of the New Urbanism Second Edition*
Speck, Jeff, (2012) *Walkable City*
Langdon, Philip & Steuteville, Robert, *Best Practices in New Urbanism*

9/24  Week 6: **Typology and Morphology: The Architecture of the City**
• Round Robin of Reading Questions
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  How do building typologies and urban morphologies co-evolve? How have typology and morphology been used as tools of description, prescription, and inspiration? Where do Leon Krier on the one hand and space syntax on the other fit into Vernez Moudon’s classification?
• Reading Preparation Lecture: Koolhaas (EDJ)

Required Reading:
• Moudon, Anne Vernez, (1994) “Getting to Know the Built Landscape: Typomorphology” (T)
• Leon Krier (1984) “Critiques” and “Urban Components” (T) from *Houses, Palaces, Cities*

Background Reading:
Moneo, Rafael (1978) “On Typology”, *Oppositions 8*
Moneo, Rafael (1975) “Aldo Rossi: The Idea of Architecture and the Modena Cemetery” *Oppositions 5*
Moudon, Anne Vernez (1986) *Built for Change – Neighborhood Architecture in San Francisco*  
Plater-Zyberk, Elizabeth, (2008) “An Optimistic Moment” (T) from *Form-Based Codes*

10/1 Week 7: **Typology and Morphology: Koolhaas: Manhattanism vs Atlanta**  
- Round Robin of Reading Questions  
- Class discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:  
  
  What are the virtues and complaints about gridded cities? In what way do contradictions enhance our experience of the city? How does Koolhaas argue that Manhattan and Atlanta each promote freedom? How does the morphology of block layout impact the fit/disposition of buildings on lots and how does that impact the experience of the urbanism? What is Koolhaas’ research methodology and how does it compare to Scheer or Rossi?

Required Reading  
- Koolhaas, Rem (1978) Delirious New York, Read the “Introduction” and “Pre-History” (p.6-20); Read the first 6 pages of “Coney Island: The Technology of the Fantastic” (p.21-27), skim the rest of the section, paying particular attention to the plan of Coney Island’s Middle Zone in 1907, and “Conquest”; Read the first 16 pages of “The Double Life of Utopia: The Skyscraper” (p.67-82,) concluding with the section on “lobotomy”; skim until p.90-91 and read “Schism”, “Shadow”, “Law” and “Village”; read “The Skyscraper Theorists” (p.93-109); read “Definitive Instability: The Downtown Athletic Club” (p.127-133); skim the rest of the book, paying particular attention to the discussion of Le Corbusier’s Radiant City starting with “City” and ending with “Afterbirth” (p.208-213) and the discussion of “The City of the Captive Globe”, (p.242-244.) (R)  
- Koolhaas, Rem (1995) “Atlanta” (T). Skim through the book’s photographs and other essays, including Richard Dagenhart’s (R)

Background Reading  
Koolhaas R., Harvard Project on the City, Boeri S., Kwinter, S., (2001), *Mutations*

10/8 Week 8: **Context and Composition: Colin Rowe’s Formalism**
- Round Robin of Reading Questions
- Lecture: Contextualism (Dagenhart)
- Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  What are the urban design traditions that Rowe’s formalism draws upon?
  What are the compositional tools at work? What are the limits of Rowe’s contextualism? Why are there more paper projects than built examples of this work?

Required Readings:
- Rowe, Colin (1979) “The Present Urban Predicament” p.165-220 and “Cornell Studio Projects and Theses” p.5-86, *As I was Saying, vol 3, Urbanistics*

Background Readings:
Dennis, Michael, *Court & Garden* (1988)
Petersen, Steve, “Space & Anti-Space”
Krier, Rob (2006) *Town Spaces*

10/15 **Fall Break**

10/22 Week 10: **Context and Composition: event-cities and post-architectural modernity**
- **Quiz: Readings Weeks 6-10**
- Round Robin of Reading Questions
- Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  In what ways does the focus on events critique the production of masterplans? What urban design strategies emphasize temporal processes instead of fixed compositions? Are indeterminate cities better than planned cities? Why the focus more on the field rather than the figure? How do markets play into compositional and anti-compositional strategies?
• Pin-up of parti diagrams for Student Presentation

Required Readings:
• Tschumi, Bernard, (1983) “Spaces and Events” Architecture and Disjunction (T)
• Koolhaas, Rem (1996) “Whatever Happened to Urbanism” (T) – in SMLXL
• Koolhaas, Rem, (1994) “Bigness” (T) – in SMLXL
• browse SMLXL (R)
• Dagenhart, Richard, (1982) An(other) Order of Urbanism: Tschumi and Koolhaas at La Villette (T)

Background Readings:
Lerup, Lars, (2004) “American Speed, American Distance” from New Urbanism, Peter Calthorpe vs. Lars Lerup, Michigan Debates on Urbanism volume II. (R)
Alex S. MacLean, James Corner, (1996) Taking Measures Across the American Landscape (esp Chapter 3)

10/29 Week 11: Context and Composition: Student Presentations
• Student Presentations and Discussion: Cornell Projects and Theses compared to recent built urban design projects.

11/5 Week 12: Ecology and Environment: Calthorpe and Climate Change
• Round Robin of Reading Questions
• Brief Opening Lecture: Calthorpe and Climate Change
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  How does climate change impact the work of urban designers? How do mitigation and adaptation strategies differ? Where can change be most effective and who is most impacted – at the local, regional, and global scale? What are the obstacles to effective regional design? How do the goals of sustainability and resilience compare?

Required Reading:
• Calthorpe, Peter (2010) Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change

Background Reading:
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/08/13/weapons_of_mass_urban_destruction?page=0.0

Talen, Emily (ed), (2013) Charter of the New Urbanism, Second Edition (see in particular Calthorpe’s “Afterword: CNU Expanded”, the very contrary opinion expressed by Leon Krier “Postscript: Completing the CNU Charter,” the Epilogue on proposed amendments to the charter to deal with climate change, including the Canons of Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism.

Stone, Brian, (2012) The City and the Coming Climate


Farr, Doug (2008) Sustainable Urbanism

Coyle, Stephen (2011) Sustainable and Resilient Communities

11/12 Week 13: Ecology and Environment: From McHarg to Landscape Urbanism

• Round Robin of Reading Questions
• Lecture: Ian McHarg and the Rise of the Environmental Movement (Dagenhart)
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:

  How does the role of the urban designer change depending on how they view “the city” and “nature”? What means does urban design have to resolve the mismatch between the maps of environmental systems and political and property-ownership boundaries? Why has McHarg been rediscovered now? How does landscape urbanism reposition ecology, environmentalism, and green infrastructure?

Required Readings:

• McHarg, Ian, (1969) Design With Nature, read preface through “The Cast and the Capsule” (pp.iii-53), then skim until “A Response to Values” and read pp. 79-101 through the chapter titled “The World is a Capsule” then skim until “The City: Process and Form” and read the rest of the book up to pp.175-197. (Note: the chapter on Washington DC is particularly worth paying attention to.)
• Corner, James, (2007) The McHarg Event: An Unfinished Project (T)

Background Readings:


McHarg, Ian and Steiner (1998) To Heal the Earth – Selected Writings of Ian L. McHarg.


Olmsted, Frederick Law, (1870) “Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns”

James Corner lecture at Georgia Tech, Nov 2, 2009, on video at: http://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/31267?show=full

Almy, Dean, ed. (2007) Landscape Urbanism – Center: Volume 4


Dennis, M., and McIntosh, A., (2013) “Landscape and the City” from Landscape Urbanism and its Discontents


Slide the button under the video to 26:40 minutes to skip the other content of the 2.25 hour plenary and get to Doug Kelbaugh’s introduction of the two speakers.

11/19 Week 14: Urban Design Theory and Practice: Challenges in North America

• Lecture: Urban Design Theory and Practice: Retrofitting Suburbia in Lean Times
• Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following: Can we retrofit our way out of sprawl? What is the role of urban design in areas of shrinking populations and stagnant economies? Can the ideals of urban design theories be applied to the realities of practice in a lean economy? What are the unresolved challenges – such as gentrification, obesity, designing for an aging population – that your generation will be tackling in North America? What are the new tools, both digital and analytical, that may change your generation’s practice of urban design?

Required Readings
• Dunham-Jones, Ellen and Williamson, June, “Retrofitting Suburbs”, Urban Land Magazine, June 2009 (T)
• Lydon, Mike (2011) Tactical Urbanism vol 2, online at: http://www.cnu.org/cnu-news/2012/03/tactical-urbanism-20

Background Readings

Condon, Patrick M. (2010) Seven Rules for Sustainable Communities

Urban Land Institute, 2011: What’s Next (T)

Mayor Bloomberg, NYC Active Design Guidelines- Promoting Physical Activity and Health in Design (2010) (T)


11/26  Week 15: **Urban Design Theory and Practice: Challenges for Future Global Practice**

- **Quiz: Readings Sessions 12-15**
- Film screening: *Urbanized* (2011) – 85 minutes
- Class Discussion – be prepared to discuss the following:
  
  *How does globalization impact urban design practice? How are newly prosperous cities using architecture and urbanism to assert their identity on the global stage? Are skyscrapers more sustainable than lower-rise density? What is the role of cities as the world becomes “flatter”? How does rural-to-urban migration impact urban design? What can we learn from megaslums? Is there a point when urban designers should simply get out of the way?*

**Required Reading:**

  
  (Note, Chapter 3, “Urban Promise” is also recommended, but not required.) (T)

- Chalana, Manish, (2010) “Slumdogs vs. Millionaires; Balancing Urban Informality and Global Modernity in Mumbai, India” (T)

**Background Readings:**


- Mike Davis, (2006) *Planet of Slums*

- Glaeser, Edward, (2011) *Triumph of the City*


- Fujita, Mari Anna, (2010) “Forays into Building Identity: Kampung to Kampong in the Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan Area”


- Koolhaas, Rem and the Harvard Project on The City (1996) *The Great Leap Forward*


- Burdett, Ricky and Deyan Sudjic, eds. (2008) *The Endless City* Phaidon Press

- Burdett, Ricky and Deyan Sudjic eds. (2011) *Living in the Endless City*


12/3  Week 16: **Final Reviews – No Class**