

ARCH 534: ASPECTS OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN FORM

T-F: 8:30 - 9:50 AM FMH 305

Professor Ersin Altin

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Office Hours: By appointment (in-person or through Zoom)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course examines the notion of urban form within a historical perspective. Although the class is not designated as a comprehensive survey, case studies drawn from around the world were arranged chronologically. In addition to form analysis that will constitute the core of our discussions; historical, social, political, economic, and cultural issues will also be investigated. We will be concerned with the meanings behind the particular urban elements, as much as their physical, operational, and functional aspects within the greater format of the city. Hence, we will consider specific streets and squares within the matrix of the overall urban structure. Throughout, references will be made to contemporary urban design theory and practice.

The first step is the familiarization with general literature and approaches to the study of these urban elements. We will then focus on case studies. Students will choose sample streets and squares from the cities listed in the syllabus and analyze them thoroughly. They are expected to generate and lead class discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Class has both theoretical and practical components. While lectures and in-class discussions draw a general frame about the evolution process of the urban developments in time, design exercises aim to make students aware of the actors of urban environments and the dynamics that determine its changing and active form and help students develop a critical approach.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Note that the overall grade shown on Canvas might not be accurate until all grades are posted. Refer to the following percentages when calculating your overall grade:

- Alert attendance at weekly meetings (grade lowered for poor attendance, see Attendance)
- Class Participation, 25% of final grade
 - *Weekly Discussion*, 15%
 - *Contribution*, 10%
- Class Presentation, 20% of final grade
- Research + Analysis + Thesis, 55% of final grade
 - *City Walls*, 15% of final grade
 - *Dérive + Psychogeographic Map*, 20% of final grade
 - *Thesis: Parametric Urbanism*, 20% of final grade

Subject to change during the semester

COURSE MATERIALS:

There are many books that survey urban history. The following are especially useful for our purposes. The list might be extended during the term with the additional books and (visual and textual) material. Do not hesitate to check our library's resources (online or physical) for further analysis.

Leonardo Benevolo, *The History of the City*. Cambridge, Mass., 1980.

Mark Girouard, *Cities and People*. New Haven, 1985.

Spiro Kostof, *A History of Architecture*. New York, 1985.

Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*. Cambridge, 1960.

Aldo Rossi, *The Architecture of the City*, Cambridge and London, 1982.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY & CONDUCT IN CLASS:

Grading: The grading matrix for each assignment is provided in the detailed requirements posted on Canvas. You will receive numerical grades for each individual assignment and these, with weighted percentages, determine your final letter grade, as set by NJIT policy. A =90-100, B+=86-89, B=80-85, C+=76-79, C=70-75, D=60-69, F= 59 or below. To pass this class, you must complete EVERY assignment, but completion of an assignment does not guarantee a passing grade.

Policy for Late Work: You must notify me in advance, if you plan to be late with assignments, and I will determine if this tardiness will be excused. If you submit your work without any notification, for the first 24 hours after the deadline, a 10% penalty will be applied. The penalty will be 25% after 48 hours. Any work 5 days (120 hours) after a deadline will not be accepted. Special circumstances should be discussed with me.

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu

Generative AI: Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course for certain assignments and activities. It is not permitted to be used in the following assignments, as doing so would undermine student learning and achievement of course learning outcomes: X, Y, Z. Additionally, if and when students use AI in this course, the AI must be cited as is shown within the [NJIT Library AI citation page](#) for AI. If you have any questions or concerns about AI technology use in this class, please reach out to your instructor prior to submitting any assignments.

COMMUNICATION:

Dr. Ersin Altin

Email: ersin.altin@njit.edu

Students are encouraged to drop in during office hours. Students should also feel free to email with any concerns or questions about the course.

SCHEDULE:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments</u>
1	1/21	Introduction to course

Urban Form: Theories and Components

Kevin Lynch, "The Form of Cities," *Scientific American*, Vol. 190, No. 4 (April 1954), pp. 54-63
 Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley, *Are We Human? Notes on an Archaeology of Design* (Baden, Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers, 2016), pp. 9-27.

2 1/28-1/31

Whose City? | Power and Urban Space

Stuart Brisley and Maya Balcioglu, *The Cenotaph Project*, Derry: Orchard Gallery, 1991.
 Deborah Cherry, "Statues in the Square: Hauntings at the Heart of the Empire," *Art History*, 29/4 (September 2006), 660-697.
 Assignment 1: *City Walls* issued.

3 2/4-2/7

Early Settlements & First Cities

Case Study: Çatalhöyük, Ur, Babylon, Persepolis, Knossos, Mycenae
 Ian Hodder, "Women and Men at Çatalhöyük," *Scientific American*, Vol. 290, No. 1 (January 2004), pp. 76-83.
 Mary Shepperson, "Planning for the Sun: Urban Forms as a Mesopotamian Response to the Sun," *World Archaeology*, Vol. 41, No. 3, (Sep., 2009), pp. 363-378.

4 2/11-2/14

Ancient Greece & The Roman Realm

Case Study: Athens, Delphi, Miletus, Priene, Rome, Timgad, Palmyra, Pompei

John M. Camp, *The Athenian Agora*, London, 1986.
 Robert Wycherley, *How the Greeks Built Cities*, New York, 1962.
 J. Carcopino, *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*, New Haven and London, 1940.
 Diane Favro, *The Urban Image of Augustan Rome*, New York, 1996.

5 2/18-2/21

The Medieval City: Monastery, Fortifications & Mobility

Case Study: San Gimignano, Lucca, Siena, Florence, Bruges, Monpazier, Carcassonne

David Friedman, *Florentine New Towns: Urban Design in the Late Middle Ages*, London, 1988.
 H. Miskimin and others, eds., *The Medieval City*, New Haven and London, 1977.

Assignment 1 Due.
 Assignment 2: *Dérive* issued.

6 2/25-2/28

Cities of the Americas

Case Study: Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, Caral, Chan Chan, Tenochtitlan, Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Tenochtitlan, Chichen Itza

TBA

7 3/4-3/7

Renaissance Cities: Theory and Practice | Ritual and Urban Form: Venice | Religion and Urban Form: Rome

Case Study: Florence, Siena, Rome, Venice.

L. B. Alberti, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books* (tr. by J. Rykwert and others), London, 1989.
 Giulio Argan, *The Renaissance City*, New York, 1969.
 Eugene J. Johnson, "Jacobus Sansavino, Gioacomo Torelli, and the Theatricality of the Piazzetta in Venice," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, v. 59, no. 4, December 2000, pp. 436-453.
 Edward Muir, *Civic Ritual in Renaissance Venice*, Princeton, 1981.
 Manfredo Tafuri, *Venice and the Renaissance*, Cambridge and London, 1989.

8	3/11-3/14	<p>The Modern City: Squares of Paris and London Case Study: London, Paris, Vienna</p> <p>Spiro Kostof, "His Majesty the Pick: The Aesthetics of Demolition" in Celik, <i>Streets</i>, pp. 2-22. David Pinkney, <i>Napoleon III and the Rebuilding of Paris</i>, Princeton, 1958. S. E. Rasmussen, <i>London. The Unique City</i>, Cambridge, Mass., and London, 1934. D. Olsen, <i>The City as a Work of Art</i>, chapters 5, 7-9.</p> <p>Assignment 2 Due. Assignment 3: <i>Parametric Urbanism</i> issued.</p>
9	3/18-3/21	Spring Break. No class.
10	3/25-3/28	<p>Early Cities of North America Case Study: Santa Fe, Los Angeles, Quebec, Montreal, New Orleans, Savannah, St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia, Williamsburg, Washington DC.</p> <p>Stanford Anderson, "The Plan of Savannah and Changes of Occupancy during its Early Years: City Plan as Resource," <i>The Harvard Architectural Review</i>, v. 2, Spring 1981, pp. 68-75. Dora Crouch and Axel Mundigo, "The City Planning Ordinances of the Laws of the Indies Revisited," <i>Town Planning Review</i>, no. 48, 1977, pp.397-418. Dell Upton, "The Master Street of the World" in <i>Streets</i>, pp. 277-288. Recommended: Dora Crouch and others, <i>Spanish City Planning in North America</i>. Cambridge, Mass., 1982. John Reps, <i>The Making of Urban America</i>, Princeton, 1959.</p>
11	4/1-4/4	<p>The City Beautiful and Garden Cities Case Study: Welwyn, Letchworth, Ciudad Lineal of Madrid, Radburn, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington DC.</p> <p>E. Howard, <i>Garden Cities of Tomorrow</i>, London, 1902. David Handlin, "The Context of the Modern City," <i>The Harvard Architectural Review</i>, v. 2, Spring 1981, pp. 76-89. Ken Tadashi Oshima, "Denenchōfu: Building the Garden City in Japan," <i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>, Vol. 55, No. 2 (June 1996), pp. 140–151. Daniel Bluestone, <i>Constructing Chicago</i>, New Haven and London, 1991. Recommended: John Reps, <i>The Making of Urban America</i>, chapter 81.</p>
12	4/8-4/11	<p>Corbusian Urbanism, Postmodern Critique and Reality: Automobile Suburbs Case Study: Ville Contemporaine, Plan Voisin, Radiant City, Plans for Algiers, Chandigarh, Pruitt Igoe, Levittown(s), Disneyland/Epcot.</p> <p>Le Corbusier, <i>Urbanisme</i>, Paris, 1925 (The City of Tomorrow). Aldo Rossi, <i>The Architecture of the City</i>, Cambridge and London, 1982 Ronald Kates, New Urbanism Meets Cinematic Fantasyland: Seaside, "The Truman Show," and New Utopias," <i>Popular Culture</i>, Vol. 23, No. 2 (October 2000), pp. 93–98.</p> <p>Recommended: Eric Mumford, <i>The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, 1928-1960</i>, Cambridge and London, 2002. Jane Jacobs, <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i>,</p>
13	4/15	Paper Cities

Case Study: Sforzinda (Filarete), Fortified Utopia (Durer), Christianopolis (Johann Valentin Andrea), Metropolis (King Camp Gillette), The World A Department Store (Bradford Peck), Citta Nuovo, Hochhausstadt (Hilberseimer), Cité Industrielle, Plan for Tokyo, Metabolist City Designs, Centricity, Terra Nova, La Habana Vieja.

Tessa Morrison, *Unbuilt Utopian Cities 1460 to 1900: Reconstructing their Architecture and Political Philosophy*, Routledge, 2015.

14 4/22-4/25

Cities of the Global South

Case Study: Istanbul, Cairo, Bagdad, Lagos, Astana, Shanghai, Dubai, Lahore, Mumbai, Medellin, Rio de Janeiro, Nairobi

William J. Glover, *Making Lahore Modern: Constructing and Imagining a Colonial City*, University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Prince K. Guma, *Rethinking Smart Urbanism*, The Hauge: Eburon, 2020.

15 4/29-5/2

Digital Urbanism: Parametric Design

Case Study: Novorossiysk, Nicosia, Kartal, Johor Bahru, New Administrative Capital (Cairo), Bahrain International Circuit, The Line (Saudi Arabia), Smart Forest City (Mexico), The Orbit (Canada), Chengdu Future City, Maldives Floating City, Amavarati, Telosa + BiodiverCity (BIG)

Charles Montgomery, *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014.

TBA

16 5/7

Parametric Urbanism Due

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

Canvas Accessibility Statement

Requesting Accommodations: If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the [Office of Accessibility Resources and Services](#), Kupfrian Hall 201 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the office authorizing student accommodations is required.

[General Resources for NJIT Students \(including technical support\)](#)