

USP 183GS: INTERNATIONAL URBAN DESIGN PRACTICUM

Instructor Information

Sue Peerson, AICP

Urban Studies & Planning Department

email: speerson@ucsd.edu

class hours: Mondays – Wednesdays from 13:00 – 15:00pm

office hours: by appointment



Amsterdam

Course Overview and Objective

This course will introduce the student to the theory and practice of urban design in a global setting. There is an emphasis on the built environment, and how it is created and shaped within an international context. The studio course will focus on the study of public space. We will begin with Jan Gehl's influential book *Life Between Buildings* published in Danish in 1971, with the first English translation in 1987. Gehl is a Danish architect and urban designer practicing in the Netherlands whose career has focused on improving the quality of urban life by re-orienting city design towards the pedestrian and cyclist. Students will engage in hands-on exercises using Gehl's systematic approach to document public space and observe daily life.

Students will analyze public space and public life in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht and Groningen. These cities in the Netherlands are the ideal locations to conduct outdoor urban labs. Students will explore different tools and techniques to observe and critique the city. This course is taught in a studio-based environment that uses case studies and real sites. Students will engage in activities that analyze: arrangement of buildings to the street, relationships between buildings, connection of buildings to open space, building form and typology, scale, and the public realm. Walking tours, field trips and excursions will test urban design principles covered in class.

Urban design is an interdisciplinary study and students of all majors are welcome. The course will sequentially build upon theoretical material covered in class to allow students to apply concepts in the field. There will be a series of exercises leading up to a final project – Analytical Visual Summary – documenting the significance of public space and public life.

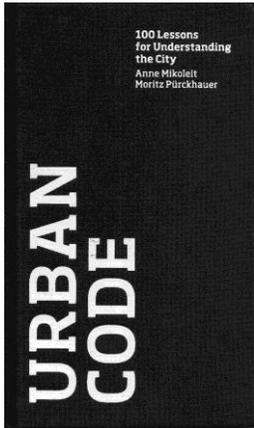
Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this studio course, students will be able to answer these questions:

1. What is Urban Design?
2. What are the methods to collect, analyze and critique your observations about the city?
3. What experiential qualities contribute to places that are designed for people and serve their daily needs?
4. What should be in every urban designer's toolkit to get a clearer image of life in cities?
5. How can we improve the public realm and promote cities that are sustainable, socially engaged and improve the quality of life for users?
6. Why are Dutch cities a model for the study of public space and public life?

Course Textbook and Readings

Each student will purchase the required textbook *Urban Code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City*. This book will be a student's "pocket guide" to this course because it refers to seminal urban design books and theories. It is easy to pack and carry with your sketchbook and drawing supplies – bringing it to the classroom, field trips and excursions.



***Urban Code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City* (2011)**

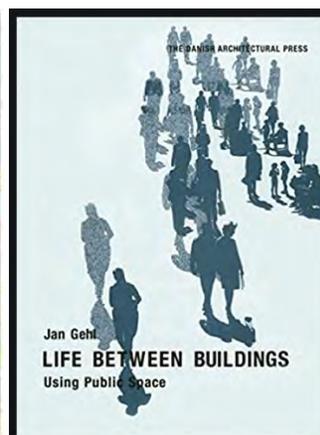
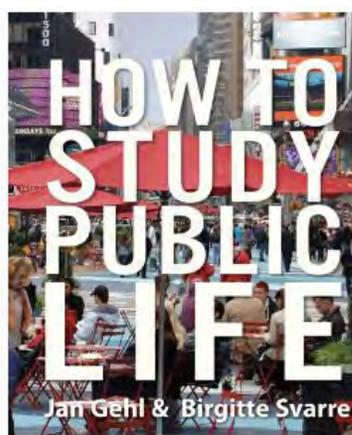
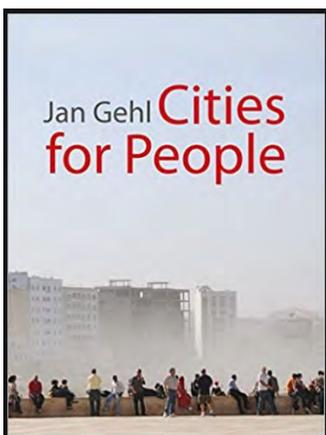
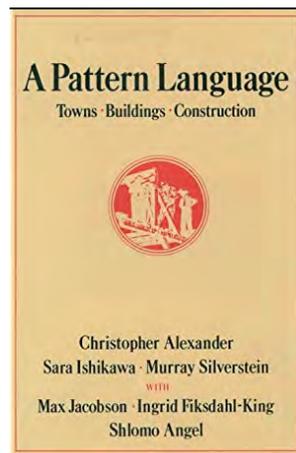
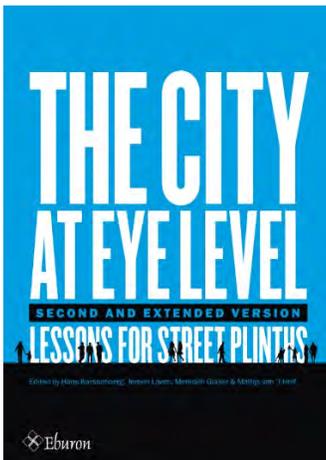
Ann Mikoleit and Moritz Pürckhauer

ISBN: 9780262016414

Available for purchase online at Amazon and

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/urban-code>

The following e-books will be made available to conduct field exercises and complete assignments.



Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be evaluated upon their process and execution of individual and team assignments as well as their attendance, class participation, exercises, and final project. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete each week’s required readings prior to class. Late work will be accepted with a full letter grade deduction for each day late, starting with the day the assignment is due. Make-up presentations will not be offered.

Course Format

Course work consists of lectures, discussions and field exercises that reinforce assigned readings. The course will include “studio” time to work on individual and team assignments. Studio time provides an opportunity for you to present your work (drawings, photos, sketches, plans, etc) to a group of peers. During these informal class pin-ups you are expected to develop the skill of verbalizing constructive critical analysis of another student’s work. You can also learn from the critiques of another’s work in relation to your own. It is important to engage the ideas that are discussed in the weekly lectures, assigned reading and field exercises to demonstrate continuity in your work.

Course Assignments

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	MAXIMUM VALUE
Urban Form. (Figure Ground, Great Streets) - Individual work	TBD	60 points
Team Assignment - Urban Design Toolkit (Public Space, Public Life Gehl Studies)	TBD	40 points
City Excursions - Urban Code Scenes in Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam - Individual Work	TBD	30 points
Sketchbook "Ideas + Resources" and Reflection Paper - individual work	TBD	20 points
Team Assignment - Final Project / Presentaton. Analytical Visual Summary based on required reading, urban design tools and field research	TBD	80 points
		230 points

Course Assignments Evaluation

Assignments will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Individual Assignments

1. You will be expected to employ the ideas and procedures outlined in the syllabus
2. Each assignment will have a description and grading rubric
3. Students are evaluated for individual progress based on:
 - a. Contribution to studio, lectures and field trips.
 - b. Evidence of motivation / perseverance.
 - c. Willingness to explore sketching and design alternatives and take risks.
 - d. Individual Critiques.

Team Assignments

1. Teams will be evaluated based on group progress based on:
 - a. Completeness of work.
 - b. Quality of work.
 - c. Group Critiques.
 - d. Evidence of participation (based on self and team-evaluation).

Principles of Community

Group work can be challenging as well as rewarding. The most successful groups are those where all members respect the opinions of one another, develop processes for reaching consensus, and have clear and effective channels of communication.

University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship

The *UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship* aims to encourage and maintain the highest ethical standards in research. You cannot use other people's ideas or writings without proper attribution, including any information from the web. The University policy is available online and everyone in class is expected to read it: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>.

Disability Act

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the USP Program (Erica Kirk, ekirk@ucsd.edu) in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. [Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 \(phone\); osd@ucsd.edu \(email\)](http://disabilities.ucsd.edu)

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Title IX Compliance

The University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. Should you want to speak to a confidential source, contact the Counseling Center.

Activities

The course will sequentially build upon theoretical material covered in class and excursion to allow students to apply urban design concepts to case study sites. There will be hands-on exercises leading up to a final project – Analytical Visual Summary – that culminates in a series of exercises using urban design principles covered in class. Each student will explore different tools and techniques to observe and critique the city and represent your work in the Analytical Visual Summary. Key to this approach is that students will develop skills – sketching, drawing, personal observations, critical thinking, and analysis – leading to a final presentation to the class and instructors.

Sketchbook

Sketchbook: sketches, collage, reflections, create a personal “idea and resource book”

Your sketchbook is the culmination of all exercises, field trips, and excursions – it contributes to your overall grade. You will be expected to bring your sketchbook and drawing materials with you. You are responsible to use your sketchbook to prepare for each exercise, document your field notes and site drawings, and to assemble a final sketchbook showing your work over the course. Set aside time to make drawings, photographs, plans, sketches, collage, etc that articulate your ideas.

Urban design is about solving problems and testing ideas through making and drawing. It is also important to engage the ideas that are discussed in each lecture or field excursion to demonstrate your understanding of urban design. You will be expected to bring your Sketchbook and Drawing Supplies to each class to continue to work on your visual communication skills.

Drawing Supplies

Students will be responsible to purchase drawing supplies before the first class.

Approximate cost \$60-70.00:

- Sketchbook 5.5”x8.5” wire bound Sketchbook (suitable for dry media such as pencils)
- Faber-Castell Goldfaber Sketching Pencils (set of 6 with eraser in a case) or purchase separately (1) of each: 2H, F or H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B or 7B
- Prismacolor Color Pencil Set (12 assorted colors) in a case for carrying
- Eraser: Faber-Castell or Mars Staedtler
- Metal erasing shield
- (2) small 8” Blick or Wescott Triangle 30 degree/60 degree and 45 degree / 45 degree
- Sharpie medium point (Black, pack of 2)
- Triangular 12” Engineer Scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:30)

Store Locations to purchase supplies or from online sources (Amazon)

Blick Art Materials, 1844 India Street, San Diego (Little Italy), 619-687-0050.

Artist & Craftsman Supplies, 3804 Fourth Avenue, San Diego (Hillcrest), 619-688-1911.

Some supplies can be found at Staples, Michaels and UCSD Bookstore.