

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Green Urban Design and Placemaking combines a lecture course with an urban design group project. Readings, lectures and discussions focus on sustainable urbanism: why and how to design living environments that are attractive and enjoyable, scaled to their context, and well programmed in their uses and activities, while reducing the energy it takes to build and operate them. The key to producing good urban design that is also green is to increase sustainability through density, integrate transportation and land use planning, optimize infrastructure, and create walkable, mixed-use and economically diverse neighborhoods.

The course applies design principles to real sites, with the objective of creating a sense of place. Students are given a group project at the scale of an urban neighborhood. Design topics explored through the projects include housing, office, retail, civic uses, streetscape elements, open spaces, circulation and parking; and how to assemble these elements into low-impact mixed-use developments. Students apply to their projects the LEED for Neighborhood Development criteria as one measure of sustainability.

Readings

Readings are posted on the course's Trunk site and are selected from some of the following books:

Barnett, Jonathan. *City Design: Modernist, Traditional, Green and Systems Perspectives*. Routledge, 2011.

Beatley, Timothy. *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning*. Island Press, 2011.

Crawford, J. H. *Carfree Design Manual*. J. H. Utrecht: International Books, 2009.

Farr, Douglas. *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

Flint, Anthony. *This Land: The Battle Over Sprawl and the Future of America*. John Hopkins University Press, 2006.

Hass, Tigran (ed). *New Urbanism and Beyond. Designing Cities for the Future*. Rizzoli, 2008.

Larice, Michael and Elizabeth MacDonald (eds). *The Urban Design Reader*. Routledge, 2013.

Owen, David. *Green Metropolis: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less are the Keys to Sustainability*. Penguin Press, 2009.

Parolek, Daniel, Karen Parolek and Paul Crawford. *Form-Based Codes. A Guide for Planners, Urban Designers, Municipalities, and Developers*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

Register, Richard. *Ecocities. Rebuilding Cities in Balance with Nature*. New Society Publishers, 2006.

Reference resources

Rider, Traci Rose. *Understanding Green Building Guidelines*. Norton & Company, 2009.

Steiner, Frederick and Kent Butler (eds). *Planning and Urban Design Standards*. John Wiley & Sons, 2007.

Yeang, Ken and Lillian Woo (eds). *Dictionary of EcoDesign*. Routledge, 2010.

Yudelson, Jerry. *Green Building A to Z: Understanding the Language of Green Building*. New Society Publishers, 2007.

Requirements

Students are required to keep abreast of the readings, write two individual papers, attend two field trips on Friday afternoons, and complete and present an urban design project in teams of 3 to 4 students

Office hours

Office hours can be scheduled for group or individual meetings at 72 Professors' Row, room 204.

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1	Jan 16	Introduction: course overview Brief History of American Urban Planning and Design	
	Jan 23	no class (Monday's schedule substituted on Wednesday for Presidents' Day)	
2	Jan 30	LEED for Neighborhood Development Principles of Sustainable Design	Paper #1 assigned
3	Feb 6	Group Project Sites – Brad Rawson Principles of Sustainable Design (cont'd)	Group projects presented/ assigned
4	Feb 13	Euclidean Zoning, Form-Based Codes, Somerville Zoning	Paper #1 due Issues Map assigned
5	Feb 20	Student presentations of Issues Maps	
6	Feb 27	Dimensions of Density and Scale	Comments on Paper #1 given Paper #2 assigned
7	March 6	SketchUp tutorial and group project work	
8	March 13	Building Types and Program of Uses	Paper #2 due
	March 20	Spring Recess – no classes	
9	March 27	Public Realm: Streets, Parks, Streetscape, Landscape	Comments on Paper #2 given
10	March 29 (Fri)	Field Trip	
11	April 3	Neighborhood Planning and Commercial Development	
12	April 10	Transportation Planning and Land Use Patterns	
13	April 12 (Fri)	Field Trip	
14	April 17	Eco-Cities and Carfree Design	
15	April 24	Guest lecture	Draft reports due
16	May 1	Project presentations	
17	May 2 (Thu)	Project presentations	Comments on draft reports given
	May 10	Final reports due (no class meeting)	Final reports due

UEP 294-04 GREEN URBAN DESIGN AND PLACEMAKING – READINGS

- 1 Jan 16 **Introduction**
Course overview
Brief History of American Urban Planning and Design
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- 2 Jan 30 **LEED for Neighborhood Development and Principles of Sustainable Design** Paper #1 assigned
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www.usgbc.org/leed/nd/

Sustainable Urbanism:

Chapter 1 The Built Environment: Where We Are Today?

starting with The American Lifestyle on the Wrong Course, pp.19-37

The Urban Design Reader:

Oliver Gillham "What Is Sprawl?" pp. 287-307

The Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) "Charter of the New Urbanism" pp. 308-311

- 3 Feb 6 **Group Project Sites** Group projects presented/assigned
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Brad Rawson, Planner, City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development

Principles of Sustainable Design (cont'd)

Sustainable Urbanism:

Chapter 2: Sustainable Urbanism: Where We Need to Go.

starting with Sustainable Urbanism: The Grand Unification, pp. 41-65

- 4 Feb 13 **Euclidean Zoning, Form-Based Codes, Somerville Zoning** Paper #1 due
Issues Map assigned
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The Urban Design Reader:

Lewis Mumford "The Garden City Idea and Modern Town Planning" pp. 43-53

Form-Based Codes:

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk "An Optimistic Moment" pp. ix-xii

Stefanos Polyzoides "The Time is Now" pp. xiii-xviii

Ch 1 Introduction: Why Form-Based Codes? Pp.3-5

5	Feb 20	Student Presentations of Issues Maps	
6	Feb 27	Dimensions of Density and Scale	Comments on Paper #1 given Paper #2 assigned
		<i>Sustainable Urbanism:</i> Chapter 5: Sustainable Urbanism – <i>starting with</i> Explaining Density, pp. 103-111	
		<i>This Land.</i> Anthony Flint. Chapter 9: The Density Dilemma, pp. 191-208	
		<i>The Urban Design Reader:</i> Eduardo Lozano “Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity” pp. 312-327 Hildebrand Frey “Compact, Decentralized, or What? The Sustainable City Debate” pp. 328-343	
7	March 6	SketchUp Tutorial and Group Project Work	
8	March 13	Building Types and Program of Uses	Paper #2 due
	March 20	(Spring Recess – no classes)	
9	March 27	Public Realm: Streets, Parks, Streetscape, Landscape	Comments on Paper #2 given
		<i>Form-Based Codes:</i> Public Space Standards, pp. 28-38	
		<i>The Urban Design Reader:</i> William Whyte “Introduction,” “The Life of Plazas,” “Sitting Space,” and “Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water” pp. 348-363	
		Allan Jacobs “Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning” pp. 387-390	
10	March 29 (Fri)	Field Trip to Genzyme Corporation, Cambridge (9am – 10 am)	
11	April 3	Neighborhood Planning and Commercial Development	
		<i>Sustainable Urbanism:</i> Chapter 7 Sustainable Neighborhoods, pp. 125-167 and pp. 179-181	
		<i>New Urbanism and Beyond:</i>	

Robert Gibbs "Urban Retail Planning Principles for Traditional Neighborhoods", pp. 158-162

12 April 10 **Transportation Planning and Land Use Patterns**

Planning for a New Century:

Stephen Putnam "Highway Planning and Land Use: Theory and Practice" pp.89-101

The Urban Design Reader:

Robert Cervero "Drawing Lessons and Debunking Myths", pp. 425-434

New Urbanism and Beyond:

Peter Calthorpe "The Urban Network", pp. 67-69

Robert Cervero "Transit-Oriented Development in America", pp.124-129

13 April 12 (Fri) **Field trip to Artists for Humanity, South Boston (4 pm – 5 pm)**

14 April 17 **Eco-Cities and Car-Free Design**

EcoCities:

Preface to the Second Edition, xix-xxv, and Introduction, pp. 1-4

Chapter 1 As We Build, So Shall We Live, pp. 5-23

Chapter 2 The City in Evolution, pp. 25-45

Car-Free Design selections t.b.d.

15 April 24 **Guest Lecture**

Draft reports due

16 May 1 **Project Presentations**

17 May 2 (Th) **Project Presentations**

Comments on draft reports given

May 10 Final reports due (no class meeting)

Final reports due