

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This course offers a hands-on design experience in group projects on the redevelopment of urban sites. The lecture component gives an overview of the planning and urban design professions, and the public policies that shape the physical environment. Historical movements and current practices are presented, from park planning and tenement reform to new urbanism and growth management.

The course has three objectives:

- To develop students' urban design and planning skills through projects.
- To provide planning concepts and tools with which students can actively participate in shaping and managing the environment.
- To discuss case studies that illustrate how planning involves the physical environment, the political process, and public policy.

Readings

Readings for each class are posted on the course's Blackboard site.

Requirements

Two individual papers, two group design exercises, one group urban planning project, and three field trips on Saturday mornings. The design exercises and the group project require time spent outside the classroom. Each class has an exercise component devoted to hands-on planning tasks, presentations, or group project time.

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UEP 205 SCHEDULE

	LECTURES	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Sept 8 Introduction: the planning profession today and a brief history of American urban planning	
2	Sept 15 Origins of urban design and town planning Exercise 1A – Housing Site Design	Paper #1 given
3	Sept 22 New towns and the modern movement Exercise 1B – Student presentations of site designs	
4	Sept 29 Group Project Sites presented, explained, chosen Exercise 2A – Issues Map	Paper #1 due Groups assigned
5	Sat, Oct 2 nd Field trip	
6	Oct 6 Production systems: program, design and the development process Exercise 2B – Student presentations of Issues Maps	
7	Oct 13 Boston history: trading port, industrial city, park planning, housing reform, urban renewal, transportation programs No exercise period	Comments on Paper #1 Paper #2 given
8	Sat, Oct 16 Boston Bus Tour	
9	Oct 20 Elements of the public realm: streets, public spaces, plants Exercise period – group project work	
10	Oct 27 Planning tools: zoning, FAR, density Exercise period – group project work	Paper #2 due
11	Nov 3 Development tools: net to gross ratio, pro-forma Exercise period – Group project work	
12	Nov 10 New Urbanism: old rules, new applications Green Urbanism: LEED for Neighborhood Development Exercise period – Group project work	Comments on Paper # 2
13	Nov 17 Smart Growth: policies and achievements Exercise period – Group project work	Draft Reports due
14	Sat, Nov 20 Field trip	
15	Dec 1 Student presentations	Comments on Draft Reports
16	Thurs, Dec 2 Student Presentations	Comments on Draft Reports
17	Dec 8 Guest speaker presentation Contemporary large-scale planning	Final Reports Due

1 Sept 8 **Introduction: the planning profession and a brief overview of American urban planning**

APA (American Planning Association), Planners Survey, 2008.

Marcus, J. S. "Designer Cities: The Development of the Superstar Urban Plan" Wall Street Journal, July 25, 2008

Rodwin, Lloyd and Bishwapriya Sanyal (eds). *The Profession of City Planning. Changes, Images and Challenges: 1950 – 2000*. CUPR, Rutgers University, 2000.
Part IV The Public Image and the Leadership Role of the Profession, pp. 207-223

Talen, Emily. *Urban Design Reclaimed*. APA Planners Press, 2009. Introduction, pp. 1-8

2 Sept 15 **Origins of urban design and town planning**

Calthorpe, Peter. "A Short History of Twentieth Century New Towns" in Sim Van der Ryn and Peter Calthorpe, *Sustainable Communities. A New Design Synthesis for Cities, Suburbs and Towns*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1986. pp. 189-234

Lynch, Kevin. *A Theory of Good City Form*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981.
Ch 16 City Models and City Design, pp. 277-286

Mumford, Lewis "The Garden City and Modern Planning", pp. 43-53 in *The Urban Design Reader*

- Paper #1 assigned, due Sept 29
- Exercise 1A: Housing Site Design, due next class

3 Sept 22 **The modern movement**

Le Corbusier "The Pack-Donkey's Way and Man's Way" and "A Contemporary City" pp. 66-75 in *The Urban Design Reader*

Wolfe, Thomas. *From Bauhaus to Our House*, New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 1981.

- I The Silver Prince, pp. 9-35
- II Utopia Limited, pp. 37-43
- III The White Gods, pp. 45-65

- Exercise 1B: Student presentations of housing site designs

4 Sept 29 **Project sites** presented by Brad Rawson. Students chose 1st and 2nd choice. Groups assigned.

Draft reports due November 17

- Paper #1 due
- Exercise 2A: Issues Map exercise assigned, due next class

5 Sat, Oct 2nd **Field Trip** to site used in housing site plan exercise

6 Oct 6 **Production systems** of the environment: program, design and the development process

Lynch, Kevin and Gary Hack. *Site Planning* (3rd ed.) Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981.

Ch 2 The Art of Site Planning, pp. 1-12

Ch 5 Design, pp.127-143

Garreau, Joel. *Edge City. Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Doubleday Anchor Books, 1991.

Introduction: Pioneers, Frontiers and the Twenty-first Century, pp. xix-xxiii

Ch 1 The Search for the Future Inside Ourselves, pp. 1-15

Ch 12 The Words. Glossary of a New Frontier, pp. 441-459

Ch 13 The Laws. How We Live, pp. 461-471

Lynch, Kevin "Dimensions of Performance", pp.109-114 in *The Urban Design Reader*

- Exercise 2A: Student presentations of Issues Maps of their group projects

7 Oct 13 **Boston history:** trading port, industrial city, park planning, housing reform, urban renewal and transportation programs

Spirn, Anne Whinston. *The Granite Garden. Urban Nature and Human Design*. New York: Basic Books, 1984.

Boston: A Natural Environment Transformed, pp. 14-29.

Lynch. *A Theory of Good City Form*.

The 19th century transformation of Boston, pp. 25-35

Zaitzevsky, Cynthia. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System*.

Ch 3 The Boston Park Movement, pp. 33-47

Birch, Eugenie Ladner. "Woman-Made America: The Case of Early Public Housing Policy." In *The American Planner*, Donald Krueckeberg (ed), Methuen, 1983. pp. 149-173

Gans, Herbert. *The Urban Villagers (1958)*. New York: The Free Press, 1962.

Ch 13 Redevelopment of the West End, pp. 281-304

Vale, Lawrence. *From the Puritans to the Projects. Public Housing and Public Neighbors*.

Harvard University Press, 2000.

Ch 5: The Boston Housing Authority Since 1980: The Puritans Return, pp. 347-381

- No exercise period
- Comments on Paper #1 back to students
- Paper #2 given, due Oct 27

8 Sat, Oct 16 **Boston Bus Tour** – Station Landing (Medford), Back Bay, Copley Square Park, Southwest Corridor South End Cover Park, Tent City, Villa Victoria, Harbor Point

- 9 Oct 20 **Elements of the public realm:** streets, public spaces, open spaces, landscaping
- Banerjee**, Tridib "The Future of Public Space: Beyond Invented Street and Reinvented Places" in *Journal of the American Planning Association* 67:1 (Winter 2001) pp. 9-24
- from *The Urban Design Reader*:
- Jacobs**, Jane "Author's Introduction" and "The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact", pp. 80-92
- Whyte**, William H. "Introduction," "The Life of Plazas," "Sitting Spaces," and "Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water," pp. 348-364 in *The Urban Design Reader*
- Jacobs**, Allan "Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning", pp. 387-390
- 10 Oct 27 **Planning tools: zoning, FAR, density**
Materials distributed in class
- Exercise period: group project work
 - Paper #2 due
- 11 Nov 3 **Development tools: net-to-gross ratio, pro-forma**
Materials distributed in class
- Exercise period: group project work
- 12 Nov 10 **New urbanism:** old rules, new applications. Green planning; LEED for Neighborhood Development
- Kunstler**, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere. The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Touchstone, 1994.
Scary Places, pp. 9-15
- from *The Urban Design Reader*:
- Gillham**, Oliver "What is Sprawl?" pp.287-307
- CNU (Congress of the New Urbanism) "Charter of the New urbanism", pp. 308-311
- Lozano**, Eduardo "Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity" pp.312-327
- Cervero**, Robert "Drawing Lessons and Debunking Myths", pp. 425-434
- Exercise period: group project work
 - Comments on Paper #2 back to students
- 13 Nov 17 **Smart Growth: policies and achievements**
- Massachusetts Office for Commonwealth Development. Ten principles of Smart Growth, 2006.
- "Growth Management", pp. 377-381 in Frederick Steiner and Kent Butler (eds) *Planning and Urban Design Principles*, John Wiley and Sons, 2007.

DeGrove, John. *Planning Policy and Politics: Smart Growth and the States*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, 2005.

Introduction, pp. 1-8

Porter, Douglas. *Managing Growth in American Communities*. Island Press, 1998.

Ch 2 Growth Management Approaches and Techniques, pp. 15-53

Barnett, Jonathan. *Planning for a New Century. The Regional Agenda*. Island Press, 2001.

Ch 4 Regional Design: Local Codes as Cause and Cure of Sprawl pp. 63-75

Marshall, Alex. *How Cities Work. Suburbs, Sprawl, and the Roads Not Taken*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.

Getting There. Building Healthy Cities, pp. 209-214

- Exercise period: group project work
- **Draft Reports due**

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| 14 Sat, Nov 20 | Field trip – Trolley Square, Cambridge: mixed-income, mixed-tenure green affordable housing |
| 15 Dec 1 | Student presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments on draft reports back to students |
| 16 Thurs, Dec 2 | Student Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments on draft reports back to students |
| 17 Dec 8 | Guest speaker presentation: contemporary large-scale planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Reports due |