

Urban Design Studio

EAS 750 Fall 2017

Monday and Friday 13:00 - 15:50, Wednesday 13:00 – 14:50

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Introduction

The Urban Design Studio focuses on design in urban contexts at a range of scales - from neighborhood down to site - while introducing students to spatial configuration in urban environments that integrate the many cultural, spatial, architectural, and ecological issues of these places. This studio aims to further develop skills in conceptualization and visualization through consideration of contemporary urban design issues. It includes documentation and analysis of urban form and process, and explores site planning and design of the public realm. Issues of local and regional identity and sustainability inform the approach of the studio.

Objectives

1. To gain experience in documenting, analyzing and understanding urban form and its evolution
2. To develop knowledge of key concepts and principles of urban design and their application through the exploration of an approach and methodology for urban design
3. To develop the ability to address issues and opportunities at the urban scale in three-dimensional form through a process of design development
4. To gain experience in graphic thinking and communication as it relates to urban design

The course aims for students to engage with complex urban design challenges and to achieve levels of design resolution well beyond their previous studio assignments, while critically engaging and challenging their own design processes. Students are required to take a clear position on the issues at stake and articulate that position visually and spatially through their own individual project. All assignment work will be project-based, with each of the stages building upon one another to produce a final design that demonstrates technical, theoretical, ecological and spatial competencies.

Teaching Approach

This course follows a studio-based format and is structured to allow students to develop a greater understanding of new design processes & methodologies as they relate to urban design specifically and the urban environment in general. The studio is largely self-directed, that is, you must work to uncover the project rather than being assigned one. Students are required to participate in the discussion of design ideas and processes at a class, group and individual level.

Grading/Student Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be done on the basis of day-to-day performance as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While the *product* of studio work is important, equally important is the student's ability to develop a practical, appropriate and coherent design *process*. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each studio period.

Because the studio work is evaluated during the interim and final reviews, all work must be completed on time, and all students must take part in the presentations and reviews. Late pinning up/submission of material to be presented in studio reviews is not acceptable (grades will be deducted for work pinned up or submitted later than the deadline specified in the course/project brief or as discussed in class). Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups. Attendance and engagement are expected as a requirement for progress in design, and is characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions.

Project phase due dates

1a Research and Analysis	10%
1b. Site analysis and precedents	10%
2. Open space strategies	20%
3. Design Development	30%
4. Final Proposal	30%

Total **100%**

A Note on Critical Review

Critical review of student work is vital to design projects. This is part of feed-back for learning purposes. Such reviews must not be misunderstood as indicators of standards and they are different from assessment. Students have a responsibility to attend critical reviews at the appointed time as part of the learning process. Review panels are composed of internal and external members for the appointed times and cannot be re-composed to consider late submissions. Consequently, late work will not receive a critical review, though it will be assessed with marks.

- **Critical Review:** May take place during the development phases of a project as well as at the time of the final submission. Its purpose is to identify strengths and weaknesses in the work and to offer suggestions to generally encourage the student. An encouraging critical review does not necessarily mean a good assessment result.
- **Assessment:** May take place at a stage in a project or on final submission (or both). Its purpose is to value the work in terms of the objectives stated in the Syllabus and project brief and to express this as a grade.

Schedule

week	date	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	3-Sep	Labor Day, no classes	Studio intro; project handout	studio
2	10-Sep	studio	Phase 1a due	Site visit, Mack Ave, Detroit (leave Dana Bldg at noon)
3	17-Sep	studio	Phase 1b due	studio (Mark away)
4	24-Sep	studio	Phase 2 due	studio
5	1-Oct	studio	studio (MI ASLA conference Thurs)	Stormwater Summit
6	8-Oct	Phase 3 presentation	studio	studio
7	15-Oct	Fall study break, No Classes	Final reviews (noon start)	ASLA conference, no studio
* dates subject to change as needed				