FUNDAMENTALS OF URBAN DESIGN – Identity, Placemaking and Urban Analysis

2017-18 2nd Term,
Mondays & Thursdays 2pm – 7pm, Venue: URBD LAB
Instructor: Darren Snow

Fundamentals of Urban Design is an advanced studio course in the techniques and tools of Urban Design practice. The studio focuses on two essential aspects of contemporary urbanism: Urban Analysis and Placemaking. These ideas will be critically explored at Luohu/Lowu the historic intersection of Hong Kong and Shenzhen.
STUDIO APPROACH

The studio is part of a wider research project at CUHK investigating processes of urban analysis and scenario building that are better informed by placemaking values and community participation. Students will relate to these central ideas at all stages of their work, using the project to test and manifest their conceptual premise. Building on the urban interventions work of the First Semester, this studio allows students the opportunity to develop skills at medium to large urban scales. Each student will develop their own design in response to the brief and the studio focus. An overall proposal for the site will be made at an urban level of detail, and then tested through the relevant scales.

The studio will kick off with a series of workshops and charrettes to explore the ideas required to develop relevant designs. The programme will also incorporate an upcoming workshop in Shenzhen in January 2017, to explore urban memory in the context of rapid urbanization. This workshop studio will comprise site visits, lectures, fabrication and will culminate with a public presentation. The studio outcome will be part of urban design exhibitions in Hong Kong and Dublin in the second half of 2017.

The studio is also an internship with a practicing urban designer, providing students with the tools required to create meaningful and rigorous urban designs.

PROJECT SITE

To explore these ideas fully, the project will focus on a site that is culturally meaningful in the context of Shenzhen’s accelerated history and relationship to Hong Kong and the wider PRD. Projects will focus on Luohu Port, the most historic connection between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Encompassing Luohu border crossing and surrounds, the site has remained relatively stagnant while the Luohu district has relentlessly innovated and transformed. Projects are encouraged to engage with special accelerated history of this place and its strategic location as connection between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Issues of urban integration and identity have been raised by local stakeholders in recent years as this highly connective site has increasingly become an isolated transit point rather than an appropriate gateway to China’s most innovative metropolis. The site is particularly suitable to the studio as it is well scaled and in a defined urban context that design proposals must engage with. Students will be empowered to reconsider the urban morphology and relationship of these two Iconic cities by developing schemes that consider the border area in a comprehensive manner.
OBJECTIVES OF THE DESIGN STUDIO

- To create a contextual and vibrant urban design, with focus on increasing living quality, social interaction and economic vitality;
- To create a Conceptual Plan and study schemes indicating, land use with program layout;
- To identify and understand how existing urban areas at Luohu have emerged and are currently transforming;
- To develop strategies to improve and enhance the neighbourhood’s economic vitality and sustainability;
- To explore new opportunities for integrated infrastructure planning to guide the development of more cost-effective and resilient green infrastructure investments over time;
- To create a comprehensive urban design strategy to integrate the new development into the existing context;

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completing the studio, students will be able to:
- Understand how to organize a sustainable development strategy for Luohu, that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- Understand, map and interpret the urban morphology of an important part of Shenzhen and Hong Kong;
- Understand the complex relationships between enhancing urban mobility and environmental, economic and social sustainability;
- Learn from key examples of Urban Planning;
- Create a comprehensive urban design strategy by learning to work in different scales in the fields of architecture, urban design and city planning;
- Understand and address contemporary urban issues with focus on development of advanced urban design, presentation and communication skills while addressing key issues and developing context sensitive strategies and designs
- Determine priorities and strategies to create an urban ecosystem;

**STUDIO OUTPUT**

Students develop individual strategies and designs for the improvement of urban integration including public spaces and street level building interfaces based on prior identified issues and realizing opportunities. Drawings and models in different scale 1:2500/1:1000/1:500, plus detail studies, montages and perspectives should show the intended qualities of urban transformation and integration of public spaces usable in various seasons and times of the day. Statements of addressed issues and design intentions should be formulated in text and drawings. With progression of the design project they should be revised and updated. Research findings and projects will be gathered in a joint studio booklet. All students have to submit a digital documentation.

**DELIVERABLES**

- Group studies according to defined issues
- Developing a site model (scale 1:2500)
- Written description of addressed issues and design intentions (500 words)
- Group drawings and models with strategic propositions (scale 1:1000)
- Phasing plan of proposed development strategies
- Urban integration, public space/building design drawings and models (scale 1:500)
- Detailed study of urban integration incl. mixed development & public spaces
- Photomontages, Sketch Up models, visualizations and perspectives studies of urban integration
- Studio booklet
  (Digital documentation of group and individual work is compulsory after final review)

**ASSESSMENT SCHEME**

- Group Research 20%
- Overall Group Strategy 20%
- Individual Design Work 50%
- Participation 10%
REQUIRED READINGS

Jan Gehl, *Cities for People* (Island Press, 2010)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Urban visions and experimental massing
WORKac, *49 CITIES* (New York: Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2009)
Stan Allen and Marc Macquade, *Landform Building* (Lars Muller Publisher, 2011)
Winy Maas, *Hong Kong Fantasies* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2012)

Site and situation
Frédéric Edelmann, *In the Chinese City*. Perspectives on the Transformation of an Empire (Barcelona: Actar 2008)
Filipe Jorge and Francisco Figueira, *Macau From the Sky* (Lisbon: Argumentum, 1999)

**City and citizens**
Anne Mikoleit and Moritz Purckhauer, *Urban code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City* (Cambridge, MIT Press 2011)
Magda Anglés, *In Favor of Public Space*. Ten years of the European Prize for Urban Public Space (Barcelona: Actar, 2010)

**Sustainability**
Mason White, Maya Przybylski, *On Farming: Bracket 1* (Barcelona: Actar, 2010)
### SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday January 8th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Studio introduction</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<td>Thursday January 11th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Primer lecture by Leading Urban Designer, followed by design Charette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday January 12th</td>
<td>10 am - 4pm</td>
<td>Site Exploration and Readings</td>
<td>On Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday January 15th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Workshop: Urban Design Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday January 18th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Workshop: Urban Design Fundamentals - Presentation</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday January 22nd</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Site Model, mapping and Site research [Project proposal brief received]</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<td>Thursday January 25th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Presentation of Site analysis and summary of readings</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday January 29th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Primer Lecture by leading Urban Designer, followed by design Charette</td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday February 1st</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Review of project proposals [Concept Design Detailed brief]</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday February 5th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Submission of completed site models, Site Plans and Site 3D models</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<td>Thursday February 8th</td>
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<td>Desk critiques</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<td>Monday February 12th</td>
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<td>Presentation : Concept Design</td>
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<td>Thursday February 15th</td>
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<td>Submission of amended concept design</td>
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<td>Chinese New Year</td>
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<td>Thursday February 22nd</td>
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<td>Workshop: Schematic Design [Schematic Design Detailed brief]</td>
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<td>Monday February 26th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Desk critiques - formulation of urban rules for Schematic Design</td>
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<td>Thursday March 1st</td>
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<td>Desk critiques - Application of rules to project</td>
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<td>Monday March 5th</td>
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<td>Thursday March 8th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Presentation of Design rules and Key Ideas of Project</td>
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<td>Monday March 19th</td>
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<td>Desk Critiques</td>
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<td>Thursday March 22nd</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Mock review - final submission of Schematic design drawings</td>
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<td>Monday March 26th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Model making</td>
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<td>Thursday March 29th</td>
<td>9am - 7pm</td>
<td>Interim Review</td>
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<td>Monday April 9th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Critical Reflection on Schemes [Design Development Detailed brief]</td>
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<td>Desk Critiques</td>
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<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Desk Critiques</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<td>Thursday April 19th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Desk Critiques</td>
<td>URBD Lab, AITB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 25th</td>
<td>2pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Final Review</td>
<td>Zones D-F, AITB</td>
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### FIELD TRIP

(please check the boxes)

[v] Yes [ ] Local; [v] Overseas [ ] Date(s): TBC Destination(s): Shenzhen

[ ] No

### SAME COURSE OFFERED BEFORE

(please check the boxes)

[v] Yes [v] Offer year [2016] [ ] Term [II] [v] Course code [URBD 5720]

[ ] No
ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration. Students are required to submit a softcopy of the assignment to the VeriGuide system at: https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/. After submission, student should receive a receipt and an academic honesty declaration statement via an e-mail from VeriGuide. Please print the receipt and the declaration statement (below) and submit them to the lecturer together with a hardcopy of the assignment.

I declare that the assignment here submitted is original except for source material explicitly acknowledged. I also acknowledge that I am aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations, as contained in the website http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

_________________________________  __________________________________________
Signature  Date

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Name  Student ID

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Course code  Course Title