Urban Design:  
THE ARCHITECTURE OF TOWNS AND CITIES

Syllabus

First Week  
Monday, 08-09-04  6:00-9:00 pm  
Course Road Map and Overview  
Assignments

Second Week  
Day One, Monday, 08-16-04  
The Heritage of Urban Design  
Part One  
The Beginnings  
Ancient Greece  
   The Acropolis  
   The Agora  
   Greek Towns  
Urban Design in Ancient Rome  
Urban Design in Medieval Times  
   Siena  
   Medieval Town Design  
Urban Design Principles in the Renaissance  
   Ideal Cities  
   Rebuilding Ferrara  
   Leonardo da Vinci as a Town Planner  
   Rebuilding Rome  
   Renaissance Building Groups  
   The Campidoglio in Rome  
   Urban Plazas in France and England  
   Renaissance Landscape Architecture  
   LeNotre and Versailles  
   French, English, and Italian Landscaping Compared  
   Applying the Palette in London  
   Applying the Palette in France
Paris’ Influence

Part Two
The Roots of Our Modern Concepts

Background
  Ideal Towns and Worker Towns
  Planned Industrial Towns
  Urban Design and Machines
  A New Attitude toward Nature
  The Conservationists and the Park Movement
  Reviewing the Past
  The Garden City Movement and a Scientific Approach

The American Experience
  The City Beautiful Movement
  The New Communities Movement
  Regional Planning

Achievements Abroad
Men of Modern Architecture and Planning

Day Two, Tuesday, 08-17-04
Part Three
Making a Visual Survey
  A Working Vocabulary of Urban Form
      The Image of the City
          Pathways
          Districts
          Edges
          Landmarks
          Nodes

      Landform and Nature
      Local Climate
          Temperature
          Light
          Precipitation
          Sun Winds:
              Shape
          Radiocentric
          Rectilinear
          Star
          Ring
          Linear
          Branch
          Sheet
          Articulated Sheet
          Constellation
          Satellite
Size and Density
Pattern, Grain, and Texture
Urban Spaces and Open Spaces
Routes
Routes in the Countryside
Approach Routes and Surface Arteries
Local Streets
The Districts of a City

The Anatomy of a District
Form
Activity
Features
Paths
Centers
Intrusions
Change
Improvement
Activity Structure
Orientation
Details
Pedestrian Areas
Vista and Skyline
Nonphysical Aspects

Problem Areas

Part Four
Some Basic Principles and Techniques
Scale in Urban Design
Scale and Human Vision
Scale and Circulation
Scale in Neighboring Buildings and Spaces
Scale and Neighborhood Size
Scale and Parameters
Scale: Time, Convenience, Age, and Habit

Urban Space
Urban Mass
Urban Activity and Circulation
The Region and Subregion
The Metropolis
Metropolitan Sectors 82

New Techniques 83
The Open Space Technique
The Transportation System Technique
The Capital Network Technique
The Public Policies Technique
The Physical Design Technique
The Plug-In Technique
The Individual Building

Day Three, Wednesday, 08-18-04

Part Five
Examples and Scope
Some Contemporary Examples

A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OUTLOOK
URBAN DESIGN ON A METROPOLITAN SCALE
URBAN DESIGN ON AN URBAN SCALE
SELECTED URBAN DESIGN PROJECTS
RESIDENTIAL ELEMENTS
LEISURE
MALLS AND PLAZAS
THE INDIVIDUAL BUILDING
DETAILS

Part Six
Urban Esthetics
Beauty in Cities
Relationships between Site and City
- Extracted Form
- Site Supremacy
- Expression
- Entrance
- Color
- Light
- Featureless Landscape
- Urbanity
- Uses of Geometry
- Concepts
Possibilities for Reshaping American Cities
- Survey
- Relation to Nature and Topography
- Water
- Conjecture
- Growth and Form
- Further Possibilities
- A Human Approach
Day Four, Thursday, 08-19-04
Part Seven
Designing the Parts of the City
Centers in the Metropolis
   Policy and Design
Designing with a Grid Layout: Streets and Blocks
The Center’s Clusters of Activity
Gray Areas
The Preservation of Some Old City parts
Radial Routes –The Automobile Shopping Street
New Hubs
Putting the Pieces Together
Part Eight
Residential Areas
Formulating Objectives
Size and Density
Some Basic Neighborhood Design Elements
Detailed Site Design
Part Nine
Circulation
Transportation and the Formation of the Modern City
The Effects of the Automobile
The Characteristics of Modern Circulation
Formulating the Future City

Day Five, Friday, 08-20-04
Part Ten
Regulation and Control
The Background of Controls and Regulations
Present Regulatory Factors
   The Official City Plat
   The Zoning Ordinance
   Land Value
   Property Taxes
   Municipal Fractionalization
   Covenants
   Subdivision Regulations
   Building, Housing and Sanitary Codes
   The Basic Problem
Injecting Urban Design into Regulations
   Conservation and Upgrading
   Appearance and Design in Zoning
   “Special Site” Controls
   Regulatory Measures in New Development
Current Architectural Techniques
Tomorrow’s Regulatory Techniques

Part Eleven

Government Programs

The Experience of Middletown

Early Days
Private Companies for Public Service
Civic Beauty Comes to Middletown
Debt and Growth
Effects of World War I
A Zoning Ordinance and a Building Code
The Traffic Problem
New Ideas

The Depression and National Recovery

Early Programs of the Federal Government
The Housing Act of 1949: Urban Redevelopment
The Housing Act of 1954: Urban Renewal
The 1956 Highway Act
The 1961 Housing Act: Planning
The 1961 Area Redevelopment Act
The 1964 Mass Transit Act

Part Twelve

A Comprehensive Role for Urban Design

Urban Design on a National and Regional Scale
Urban Design at the Metropolitan Scale
Urban Design at the Scale of the City

Third Week

Papers and assignments are due at end of the third week

Fourth Week

Monday, 08-30-04  6:00-9:00 pm
Course Wrap-Up

[A POPULAR FEATURE OF PAST OFFERINGS OF THE COURSE HAVE BEEN APPEARANCES BY GUEST SPEAKERS AND FIELD TRIPS. A SCHEDULE OF GUEST SPEAKERS AND FIELD TRIPS IS CURRENTLY BEING ARRANGED]

Reference: Paul D. Spreiregen, Urban Design: The Architecture of Towns and Cities, American Institute of Architects