

Fall 2014
MIT School of Architecture and Planning

4.252J/11.301J: URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-11:00; Room: 9-354 (CRE Lecture Hall)

Dennis Frenchman, Leventhal Professor of Urban Design and Planning dennisf@mit.edu

Jota Samper, Lecturer in City Design and Development jota@mit.edu

Lou Thomas, Teaching Assistant lou_t@mit.edu

Office Hours: DF: Tu 11:00-12:30, Rm 10-400; JS: TBA, Rm 10-400; LT: TBA, Rm 10-947

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This subject introduces graduate students to ideas about the form of cities and how they are designed and developed. The subject is organized into two parts:

Part 1 explores the **Forces** which act to shape and to change cities. Starting with Boston and the American city as a reference, we will examine key forces affecting contemporary urban development including: market economics, social forces, public development, regulation of private development, and incentives to encourage good design. Finally we will consider how cities define a vision for their future and how these are articulated in plans and proposals. Lectures will be supplemented by guest presentations, case studies and field trips.

Part 2 surveys **Models** of urban design which have been invented in response to forces acting on cities. We will discuss the evolution of each model and its current impact on design and development in cities worldwide, located in Great Britain, Italy, China, Latin America, and elsewhere. In particular, we will focus the Traditional City, the City as a Work of Art, the Efficient City, the Garden (or Ecological) City, the Secure City, the Experience City, and the Smart City. The application of each model will be illustrated in case studies and guest presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Work for the class will include readings, class participation, and two papers related to the two units of the course. Students will also be required to keep a simple journal reflecting on the readings. Student grades will be determined as follows:

- Research papers and journal assignment: 75%
- Participation in classes, discussion sessions, and field trips: 25%

Readings provide a context for class lectures and are also intended to expose students to the ideas of key urban design theorists on the topics presented. Please complete all required readings in advance of each class. Readings are available on Stellar at: <http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/11/fa14/11.301J/index.html>

Stellar is MIT's web-based platform that contains all relevant information for the course. You need MIT web certificates installed on your computer. See TA Lou Thomas if you have any problem.

We will provide additional information on your assignments as the semester progresses (see course schedule below) via detailed assignments and a research workshop session.

OPTIONAL RECITATION FOR CREDIT

For students with a special interest in urban design, or a desire to delve more deeply into particular topics in the subject, we will offer this year an optional recitation. The recitation will give participants the opportunity to discuss and debate the readings in the syllabus and to follow up on concepts raised in class. The recitation will also provide guidance and support on the two required research papers.

The recitation will be organized by Lou Thomas, a PhD student in City Design and Development and TA for the subject. The session will meet each week for one hour *at a time to be determined with the group*. Students electing to participate in the recitation will be expected to attend the sessions regularly and to participate in the discussions, for which they will receive an additional **3 credits**. (reading course, number to be announced)

Since there is limited time for discussion in class, we urge students to consider this option, which will enrich your learning.

MIT NOTES

Disabilities. If you have a documented disability, or any other problem you think may affect your ability to perform in class, please see the instructor early in the semester so that arrangements may be made to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism and cheating are not acceptable. Never (1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself, (2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class, or (3) cheat on an exam. If you do so, it may result in a failing grade for the class, and possibly even suspension. Please see the instructor if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

Fall 2014

4.252J/11.301J: Urban Design and Development

SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

1. **Thurs.** **INTRODUCTION**
Sept. 4 Can cities be designed? Course structure and objectives.

Thomas Schurch. "Reconsidering Urban Design: Thoughts about its Definition and Status as a Field or Profession," *Journal of Urban Design* (Vol. 4, No 1, 1999). p. 5-28.

Carlo Ratti and Anthony Townsend. "The Social Nexus," *Scientific American*. September 2011. pp. 42-48.

PART 1: FORCES AFFECTING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2. **Tues.** **VIEWPOINTS ON THE CITY**
Sept. 9 How are cities understood? City themes and city culture. Ways of representing cities. The idea of imaging a city from the viewpoint of its inhabitants: Kevin Lynch. Lowell, MA as an example in changing the viewpoint on a city.

Grady Clay. "Introduction, Word Game, Fixes," *Close Up* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980). pp. 11-37.

J. B. Jackson. "The Strangers Path," *Landscapes* (Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 1952). pp. 92-106.

Kevin Lynch. "City Image and Its Elements," *Image of the City* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960). pp. 46-90.

SENSEable City Lab, MIT. <http://senseable.mit.edu> Browse website, in particular: *Illuminating Clay, Real Time Rome, NYTE New York Talk Exchange, Trash Track*

Exercise 1 Distributed

3. **Thurs.** **THE FORCES THAT MADE BOSTON**
Sept. 11 How does a city grow? The city viewed as a process of cultural and physical evolution. How underlying forces are given form through design.

Kevin Lynch. "Form Values in Urban History," *A Theory of Good City Form* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984). pp. 5-36

Following are general references for this lecture and for Exercise 1, available in Rotch Library. **You should study these to help select and research your site:**

Nancy Seasholes. *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003). General

Walter Muir Whitehill. *Boston: A Topographical History* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1975).

Alex Krieger, David Cob, Amy Turner. *Mapping Boston*. (Leventhal Foundation, 2001.)

Karl Haglund. *Inventing the Charles River*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003.)

4. Sat. WALKING TOUR OF BOSTON.

Sept. 13 9:45 AM - 2:00 PM. Meet at the Prudential Center Observatory lobby (ground floor). We will conclude the tour in the North End where you can have lunch. *Required field trip.*

5. Tues. MARKET FORCES

Sept. 16 The City viewed as a business. Land use, land value and urban development. Understanding how uses are located: the bid rent curve; cities as central places. Functional patterns of market and form: concentric zones, sectors, nodes. Evolution of the patterns -- from the walkable city to edge city.

Richard Morrill. "The Urban System and Urban Structure," *The Spatial Organization of Society* (Mass.: Duxbury Press, 1974). pp. 155-174.

John Logan and Harvey Molotch. "The City as a Growth Machine," *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1987). pp.50-98

Roger Sherman. "Counting on Change: Property," in Kazys Varnelis (ed.) *The Infrastructural City: Networked Ecologies In LA* (Barcelona: Actar, 2008). pp. 180-205.

6. Tues. RECITATION SESSION, EXERCISE 1: URBAN CHANGE

Sept. 16 (Evening) Research methods and topic development. What would make a good place to study? What resources are available? How do you document urban change over time – and into the future? Time TBA. *Attendance strongly recommended.*

7. Thurs CASE STUDY: BOSTON'S WEST END

Sept. 18 Renewal as a market imperative, or "It was just the money alone". (*The Lost Neighborhood*, CBS documentary) Guest: James Campano, Editor, *The West Ender*.

Herbert Gans. "The West End: An Urban Village" and "Redevelopment of the West End," *The Urban Villagers* (New York: London Free Press, 1982). pp. 3-41, 281-304.

Philip Langdon. "Eminent Domain Goes to Court," *Planning*, April 2005. pp.1-4.

Supreme Court of the United States. *Kelo v. City of New London* Case Syllabus, June 2005. pp. 1-2.

Identify Place for Exercise 1.

8. **Tues.** **SOCIAL FORCES**
Sept. 23 The city from the viewpoint of communities and their residents. Interrelationships of neighborhoods, class association and form: Dudley Street Initiative, Roxbury.

Jane Jacobs. "The Uses of City Neighborhoods," *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. pp. 112-140.

Holly Sklar. "Creating a Sustainable Urban Village: The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative" and "Real Insurance," *Orion*, Vol 15, no 4, Autumn, 1996. pp. 28-38.

Mark Lipman and Leah Mahon. *Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street*. 1996. Video documentary to be shown in class; available in Rotch Library.

9. **Thurs.** **STATE FORCES**
Sept. 25 The city viewed by those in power. Public development and its arenas: Infrastructure, redevelopment, and housing. How is public development financed and carried out? City design as a political endeavor: from Haussmann to Robert Moses and Nelson Rockefeller.

Anthony Sutcliffe. "Grand Design," *The Autumn of Central Paris* (London: Edward Arnold, 1970). pp. 11-42.

Robert Caro. "The Warp On the Loom," *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* (New York: Knopf, 1974). pp. 615-636.

10. **Tues.** **CITY-MAKING 1: PUBLIC-PRIVATE INTERVENTION**
Sept. 30 Regulation of private development: Zoning and incentives to influence what the market provides. Evolution of land use control to shape the "good" city; protect scarce resources. Zoning and the form of New York City, from Hugh Ferriss to Michael Bloomberg.

Jonathan Barnett. "Designing Cities Without Designing Buildings," *An Introduction to Urban Design* (New York: Harper and Row, 1982). pp. 57-97.

Jerold S. Kayden. "Record", *Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2001), pp. 43-59.

Herbert Muschamp. "Reaching for Power Over Streets and Sky". *New York Times*, May 28, 2000, p. 1.

- 11. Thurs.**
Oct. 2 **CASE STUDY: SHAPING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY**
Guest: Eran Ben-Joseph, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning. How design codes have shaped and been shaped by industrial uses. The dialectic between industry and production, and urban form. Future trends.

Eran Ben Joseph. "Designing Codes: Trends in Cities, Planning and Development," *Urban Studies*, November, 2009, pp. 2691-2702.

Nancey Green Leigh & Nathanael Z. Hoelzel (2012): Smart Growth's Blind Side, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 78:1, 87-103

- 12. Tues.**
Oct. 7 **CITY-MAKING II: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**
The entrepreneurial viewpoint. Joining public and private interests. Revitalizing downtowns with new incentives, formulas for development, and types of projects. From festival marketplace to urban Olympics.

Bernard Frieden and Lynne Sagalyn. "Entrepreneurial Cities and Maverick Developers, Deal Making, Getting and Spending," *Downtown, Inc.* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990), pp. 107-154.

Larry Beasley, "Living First In Downtown Vancouver," *APA Zoning News*, April 2000.
<http://vancouver.ca/commsvc/currentplanning/living.htm> Skim website.

"The Olympics and the City" (Interview of Vancouver Planning Director Brent Toderian), Design Observer Group, February 8, 2010.
<http://www.designobserver.com/places/entryprint.html?entry=12693>

- 13. Thurs.**
Oct 9.
(evening) **RECITATION SESSION**
Discussion will focus on the readings. Please submit a journal (any length) reflecting on the readings thus far in the course to jota@mit.edu by 9am. Questions to consider: Can you design places without designing buildings? Which tools of urban design have shaped the place you are examining for the first assignment? Time TBA. *Required Session.*

- 14. Thurs.**
Oct. 9 **FIELD VISIT: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Meet at BRA offices, top floor Boston City Hall, Model Room. 9:30-10:30AM.
Host: Prataap Patrose, Director Urban Design.

Readings for next two sessions:

Robert Campbell. "After the Big Dig: Where's the Vision?" *Boston Globe*, May 26, 2002;

Robert Campbell. "A Walk in Progress", *Boston Globe*, Dec. 2, 2007.

"Rose F. Kennedy Greenway: Boston's Ribbon of Contemporary Parks."
<http://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/> Browse website, especially *About*, and *Greenway Parks*.

- 12. Sat.**
Oct. 11 **WALKING TOUR OF PROVIDENCE / WATERFIRE**
Leave Boston 2:30 Return 9 PM. Guests: Barnaby Evans, creator/producer of WaterFire.
Dennis Frenchman, "Event Places in North America: City Meaning and Making" *Places*.
Vol. 16, No. 3, Fall 2004. pp. 36-49.
- 16. Tues.**
Oct. 14 **THE FORCE OF VISION**
The city as viewed from the future. Types of plans and plan makers. The planning process.
The role of urban design projections in shaping city form and function: Who are the
visionaries and where do their ideas come from? Themes and visions for Boston.
- 17. Thurs.**
Oct. 16 **DISCUSSION OF EXERCISE 1**
Exercise 1 due in class. Student presentations.
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PART 2: MODELS OF URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 18. Tues.**
Oct. 21 **THE TRADITIONAL CITY**
The confluence of culture, geography, and form. The line and the grid as traditional
models: Colonial towns in New England and Georgia. Neo-traditionalism: Seaside to
Poundbury, G.B.
- John W. Reps. "New Towns in New England" and "Carolina and Georgia", *Town
Planning in Frontier America* (U. of Missouri Press, 1980). pp. 100-117, 162-180.
- James Howard Kunstler. "Home From Nowhere", *The Atlantic Monthly* September,
1996. pp. 43-66.
- Leon Krier. "Master Plan for Poundbury Development in Dorchester," *Prince Charles
and the Architectural Debate, AD*, 1994. pp. 46-55.
- "The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh Visit Poundbury," Press Release, March 8, 1998.

Exercise 2 Distributed

The following are general Readings for Exercise 2:

William C. Baer. "General Plan Evaluation Criteria: An Approach to Making Better
Plans," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, summer, 1997; pp. 329-343.

Ryan, Brent D. "Reading Through a Plan." *Journal of the American Planning Association*
77.4 (2011): 309-327.

- 19. Thurs.**
Oct. 23 **THE CITY AS A WORK OF ART**
Power, symbol and form. From Rome Sixtus V to Chicago and the Worlds Columbian Exposition. City Beautiful movement and its continuing impact.
- Camillo Sitte, *City Planning According to Artistic Principles* translated by George R. Collins and Christiane Crasemann Collins, originally published in 1899 (New York: Random House, 1965): pp. 3-19, 83-111.
- Jonathan Barnett. "The Monumental City," *The Elusive City* (New York, Harper and Row, 1986). pp. 5-62.
- Rob Krier. "Reconstructing Devastated Spaces with Examples from the Center of Stuttgart," *Urban Space* (London: Academy Editions, 1991). pp. 89-111.
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- 20. Tues.**
Oct 28 **CASE STUDY: THE POLITICAL ART OF CAPITAL CITIES.**
Guest: Professor Larry Vale
- Lawrence Vale. "Capital and Capitol," *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995). pp. 1-43.
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- 24. Thurs.**
Oct. 30 **CASE STUDY: THE END OF THE SUBURBIA?** Guest: Professor Robert Fishman, University of Michigan, historian and critic.
- Robert Fishman in Lars Boelling and Thomas Sieverts, eds. "Beyond Sprawl: The New American Metropolis," *In the Middle of the Edge: From the Suburb to Sprawl to the Regional City*. (Wuppertal, Germany: Mueller and Busmann, 2004). pp. 138-161.
- Andrew O'Hehir. "Soul of the Suburb", *Salon.com*. 2000.
<http://www.salon.com/books/feature/2000/04/13/suburbs/>
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- 23. Tues.**
Nov. 4 **THE GARDEN (ECOLOGICAL) CITY**
How do ideas of nature influence the way cities are perceived and built? How natural processes and urban form interact. The search for a green, sustainable city.
- Raymond Williams, "Ideas of Nature," *Problems in Materialism and Culture* (Verso, 1980), pp. 67-85
- Alan Berger. "Discourses for Landscape and Urbanization," *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006), pp. 26-45
- Anne Whiston Spirn, "Ecological Urbanism," in Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, eds., *A Companion to Urban Design* (New York: Routledge, 2011), 600-610
- Joss, S., & Molella, A. P. (2013). The eco-city as urban technology: perspectives on Caofeidian International Eco-City (China). *Journal of Urban Technology*, 20(1), 115-137.

21. Thurs. **THE EFFICIENT (MACHINE) CITY**

Nov. 6

The city as a mechanism for production. The utopian industrial city: the 1939 New York World's Fair. Impacts on urban development policy: public housing, highways, and urban renewal. The continuing tradition in China.

Donald Bush. "World of Tomorrow," *Streamlined Decade* (NY: Brazillier, 1975). pp. 154-170.

Le Corbusier. "A Contemporary City", "The Working Day", *The City of To-Morrow and Its Planning* (London: Arch. Press, 1987 (1928)), pp. 158-194. Skim.

Jay Ulfelder. "China Isn't Socialist, Its High Modernist." Blog response to China's plans for rapid urbanization, March 18, 2014.

25. Thurs. **RECITATION SESSION**

Nov. 6

(evening)

Please submit a journal (any length) reflecting on the readings in the second half of the course to jota@mit.edu by 9am. Questions to consider: What planning strategies/tools could be employed to reshape the city or suburbs? What strategies/tools of change are in the Plan you are studying? *Required session.*

26. Thurs. **THE SECURE CITY**

Nov. 13.

Public safety vs private safety. Impact of security on urban design. Post 9/11 and the city as battlefield.

Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space," in Michael Sorkin, ed., *Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space* (Noonday, 1992).

Setha Low, "Unlocking the Gated Community," in *Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America* (Routledge, 2004), pp. 7-26.

Graham, Stephen. 2009. "Cities as Battlespace: The New Military Urbanism". *City*. 13 (4): 383-402.

27. Tues. **CASE STUDY: GROWTH AND SECURITY IN INFORMAL NEIGHBORHOODS**

Nov. 18

Informal settlements make up one third of the world's urban population. What is this form of urbanization? How can design affect security and regeneration of these neighborhoods? Medellin, Colombia and Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

Ananya Roy. "Urban Informality: Toward an Epistemology of Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 71 (2). (2005). pp. 147-158.

Davis, Mike. *Planet of Slums*. (London: Verso, 2006). pp. 1-20.

Blanco, Carolina, and Hidetsugu Kobayashi. 2009. "Urban Transformation In Slum Districts Through Public Space Generation And Cable Transportation At Northeastern Area: Medellin, Colombia," *Journal of International Social Research*.

http://www.sosyalarastirmalar.com/cilt2/sayi8pdf/Blanco_Kobayashi.pdf

- 28. Thurs.**
Nov. 20 **THE EXPERIENCE CITY**
Experience development as a force in urban design. Narrative places. The involvement of information and media in form:. From Disney World to Dubai.

David Harvey. "Time- Space Compression and the Postmodern Condition," *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Basil Blackwell, 1990). pp. 285-307.

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. *Architecture as Signs and Systems*. (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2004). pp. 12-40; 93-101.

Klingmann, Anna. *Brandscapes: Architecture in the Experience Economy*. (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2007). pp. tba.

- 29. Tues.**
Nov. 25 **THE SMART CITY**
Putting a "nervous system" into the city, and its effects on human behavior, activities and form. Smart urban systems that are sensed, continuously analyzed, and can incrementally respond over time. Stochastic as opposed to visionary urban design. Implications for theory and practice.

Castells, Manuel. "Advanced Services, Information Flows, and the Global City" in *The Rise of the Network Society*, Wiley-Blackwell: West Sussex (2010 edition), 409-417

Dennis Frenchman and William J. Mitchell, "The Digital City" in *Digital Water Pavilion* (Milan: Electra, 2008)

Eran Ben-Joseph, "City Design in the Age of Digital Ubiquity," in Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, eds., *A Companion to Urban Design* (New York: Routledge, 2011), 261-274.

- 30. Tues.**
Dec. 2 **DEBATING THE MODELS**
Are emerging models of urban design helping to produce a good city? Class interactive exercise.

A. Papadakis. "Peter Eisenman Versus Leon Krier, 'My Ideology Is Better Than Yours'." *AD, Reconstruction Deconstruction*. (London: St. Martin's Press, 1994).

- 31. Thurs.**
Dec. 4 **THE GOOD CITY.** Reconciling ideals and the real. Discussion of models of urban design and development and their applicability in practice. Whose values should the city reflect?

Kevin Lynch. "Between Heaven and Hell," *A Theory of Good City Form* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984). pp.51-72.

Exercise 2 Due.

- 32. Tues.** **WRAP UP.** Discussion of Exercise 2.

Dec. 9