Syllabus

LAND 4060
Landscape Architecture Design Studio VI - Urban Design
(4 credit hours)

Class times: M/F 8:00-11:00 am; W 8:00-9:55 am
Classroom: NAPA studio
Professor: Professor Georgia Harrison
Office: 504 Caldwell Hall
Phone: 542-9781 (off)
Email: sgharris@uga.edu
Office hours: M 1:00-3:00; T 1:00-2:45 (or by appointment)

Prerequisite: LAND 4050
Corequisite: LAND 4560, 4370

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This studio focuses on the relationship between landscape architecture, architecture, and urban design. Concepts of public and private space, perception and behavior in the urban environment, and spatial proportion and enclosure will be explored. Projects will be developed through a variety of scales to a design development level.

PHILOSOPHICAL PREMISE

Why do some spaces work and others not? If we evaluate our urban open spaces in the context of how well they function as people places, we will find that many spaces fall short. Many of our cities are uncomfortable and do not address basic needs of comfortably walking on the sidewalk or sitting on a bench. Many spaces are hot in the summer, windy in the winter and devoid of colorful detail, variety of scale and are more suited to the car than to any life form.

Numerous studies have found that addressing user needs is a prerequisite to making good parks, plazas, and urban open spaces. User requirements in open space can include such varied considerations as comfort and relaxation, privatization of public space, reducing conflicts between hikers and dirt bikers, and dog versus human use of neighborhood parks.

-Mark Francis,
Urban Open Space: Designing for User Needs
It is hard to design a space that will not attract people. What is remarkable is how often this has been accomplished.

-William H. Whyte,
The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated an understanding of the following:

- the relationship between architecture, landscape architecture and urban design;
- spatial concepts, organizational frameworks and ordering principles in architecture and urban design;
- urban conditions and pressures that affect the built environment;
- appropriate and sustainable design elements.

Skills: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated the following:

- the ability to recognize, analyze and reinforce spatial structure in an urban context;
- the ability to site buildings and structures, adaptively reusing existing features and incorporating related circulation systems (pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, bus, rail) into a responsive urban design plan;
- the ability to apply urban design concepts through a range of scales from the generation of an urban design plan to its expression in detailed designs;
- the ability to apply selected computer applications to design projects;
- the ability to understand human behavior in relation to the use of urban space.

Values: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated the following:

- an appreciation for the importance of creating human-scaled urban environments;
- an appreciation for the importance of architecture as an integral part of urban design;
- an appreciation for designing and detailing using sustainable materials and methods;
- an appreciation for the relationship between aesthetics, use, community values, ecological quality and urban design and planning principles;
- an appreciation for the need to design for human health, safety and welfare.
TOPICS

Topics that will be covered in lectures, readings, field trips and assignments include:

- spatial enclosure
- mass-void
- urban infill
- scale and proportion
- edges
- nodes
- focal points
- landmarks
- gathering places
- path and place
- approach, entry, threshold & arrival
- animation of the street
- social behavior
- user needs
- behavioral studies

METHODS

This is a studio format course supplemented with lectures, readings, in-class discussions and field trips. Impromptu pin-up sessions may occur periodically to review work progress. Students are expected to be in studio, working diligently at their desks, the entire time allotted to this class, unless directed otherwise. An essential part of learning derives from the shared experience of working with classmates in a high energy environment. Students are strongly encouraged to continue assigned work in the studio after class hours as well.

Students are expected to keep a sketch journal as a companion to their finished studio drawings to help develop observation, notation and sketching skills. Please have sketchbooks available at all times.

Students will have the opportunity to use both hand-drafting and computer drafting skills in this course. Some assignments may require hand-drafting, but others will offer the option of integrating AutoCAD skills.

MATERIALS

Students will need an 8½ x 11” (min.) sketchbook. Students will also need basic drafting equipment including, but limited to: parallel bar, triangles, technical pens, felt-tip pens, lead pencils of varying softness (use either a lead pointer or standard wooden pencils - do not use mechanical pencils for either drafting or sketching), various paper types or boards
relevant to the project assignments. **Please keep a roll of 12” tracing paper at your desk for studio critiques.**

**READINGS**

There is no required text for this course. Readings may be selected from the following books and are recommended for purchase:

Alexander, Christopher. *A Pattern Language*
Alexander, Christopher. *A New Theory of Urban Design*
Bacon, Ed. *Design of Cities*
Barnett, James. *Redesigning Cities*
Calthorpe, Peter. *The Next American Metropolis*
Cooper Marcus, Claire. *People Places*
Crowe and Laseau. *Visual Notes*
Cullen, Gordon. *Townscape*
Francis, Mark. *Urban Open Space: Designing for User Needs*
French, Jere Stuart. *Urban Space: A Brief History of the City Square*
Hedman, Richard. *Fundamentals of Urban Design*
Hough, Michael. *Cities and Natural Processes*
Jacobs, Allen. *Great Streets*
Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*
Lynch, Kevin. *Image of the City*
Moughtin, Cliff. *Urban Design: Street and Square*
Sitte, Camillo. *The Art of Building Cities*
Spirn, Anne Whiston. *The Granite Garden*
Whyte, William H. *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*
Zucker, Paul. *Town and Square: From Agora to the Village Green*

**GRADING SYSTEM**

Performance will be based on the University system with percentages as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>Work reflects superior design and graphic ability, logically thought and presented. Changes or revisions would be minor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
<td>Work shows a good understanding of the theory and concepts involved in the project, but must be slightly reworked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
<td>Work indicates a satisfactory understanding and execution of the project. Moderate revisions would be necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
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D = 60-69.9 Work is incomplete and demonstrates poor or inconsistent design process and project solution.

F = 59.9 and below Work is unacceptable, generally incomplete and shows a failure to comprehend and present subject matter.

Projects and performance are anticipated to receive the following relative weights (subject to minor revision):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation:</th>
<th>5-10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Urban Space:</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streetscape:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Infill:</td>
<td>30-35%</td>
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PROJECTED DEADLINES

The following event dates and anticipated deadlines are approximate and subject to change:

- Small Urban Space - program: Mon., Jan. 12
- Small Urban Space - pinup: Tues., Jan. 20
- Small Urban Space – final drawings: Wed., Feb 4
- Streetscape – case studies: Wed., Feb. 18
- Streetscape – site analysis/behavior mapping: Tues., Feb. 24
- Streetscape – final drawings: Fri., March 6
- Urban Infill - interim deadline: Fri., April 3
- Urban Infill – final drawings: Thurs., April 16
- CD of final work scans: Tues., May 5

CLASS STANDARDS

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Missed class time results in missed opportunity for learning and growth. Each and every unexcused absence from class will impact a student’s grade in class participation. More than three unexcused absences, prior to the withdraw date, will result in a student being dropped automatically from the class roll. More than 5 unexcused absences, throughout the term, will automatically result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Each additional 3 absences will result in a further letter grade reduction. Lateness to class in excess of 15 minutes from start time will be considered an unexcused absence. An excused absence may be granted with a signed medical excuse from a physician. Please do not test the teacher’s patience with forgeries or inadequate and lengthy excuses. Please avoid scheduling doctor appointments during class time. Appointments not related to a current and unavoidable illness will not form the basis of an excused absence.
Conduct: It is the University’s stated policy that students are expected to attend classes regularly, and that students who incur an excessive number of absences may be withdrawn from the class at the discretion of the instructor. Daily attendance will be taken for this class. Experience indicates that class attendance and participation are directly reflected in a student’s grades. Class lectures and presentations will not be repeated. Students are responsible for obtaining information on all missed assignments and handouts from other students.

Due dates and deadlines: Assignments must be submitted on the stated due date, time and place. If work is not submitted at the time specified by the instructor, the grade will be reduced one letter grade per day. After four days, the project grade will be an F. Work missed due to illness is required to be submitted no later than one week from the student’s return to class. Other situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis between the student and the instructor outside of class time, and arrangements will be made in writing, signed by both the student and instructor. Please do not attempt to discuss late work or absences at the beginning of a class period.

Grades: If a student wishes to protest a grade assigned to a project, the request must be made in writing and submitted to the instructor. No discussion of such grades will occur during class periods.

During class times and until 5:00 pm there will be no music played in the studio and no use of tobacco of any kind. Please observe common courtesy and good judgment when working in the studio at all times. Smoking in classrooms and alcohol use on state property are banned by state law.

All students are responsible for knowing the University’s policy on academic honesty. All academic work submitted in this course must be your own unless you have received the instructor’s permission to collaborate and have properly acknowledged receiving assistance. It is the instructor’s responsibility to uphold the University’s academic honesty policy and report any suspicions of dishonesty to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction.

Students who know or suspect that they have any type of learning disability must inform the instructor of such disability in writing before the third class meeting. The instructor will work with the University Counseling and Testing Center to accommodate the needs of such students. Without such notification, no special accommodations will be considered at any later date. Students with documented learning disabilities are served by the Learning Disabilities Center in Aderhold Hall (542-4589).

Documentation: Students will be asked to submit scans of some or all semester work to the instructor on CD at the end of the semester in order to obtain a course grade. Clarification of exact expectations and format will be given at the end of the semester. Some original work may be kept by the instructor after the completion of the course for accreditation and documentation purposes. All work produced in classes is the property of the University of Georgia.