Seminar: Foundations of Urban Design
970:674:01:34379  Fall 2011

9:50-12:30  Mondays CSB 113

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Overview
The New Urbanism is one the most significant movements in a generation to influence the practice of planning and urban design. This movement has, at times, been criticized for not recognizing the “old urbanism”. This seminar on the foundations of urban design will focus on the places, principles and personalities that have shaped the theory and practice of both the old and New Urbanism. Case studies will illustrate how towns, suburbs and cities are shaped by both bold stroke planning interventions and incremental evolutions. The seminar will highlight the critical role that New Urbanism plays in sustainability, Smart Growth, healthy communities, public participation and Transit-Oriented Development.

Course Structure
The course has been designed as a seminar on the foundation of urban design. The seminar will be partially structured upon the Charter of the New Urbanism:

- The Region: Metropolis, City, and Town
- Neighborhood, District, and Corridor
- Block, Street, and Building

Classes will focus on a particular aspect of the places, principles and personalities that have shaped the history, theory and practice of both old and New Urbanism. While New Urbanism is the most influential urban design movement in a generation, students will be asked to challenge the New Urbanism and identify its shortcomings during in-class discussions and assignments.

Seminar classes will include lectures, video presentations and/or discussions. Three classes will be field trips to visit different community forms and gain hands-on skills in site analysis, measurement and quick diagrams illustrating plan views and cross sections of streets and public spaces. Three classes will be studio sessions where students will analyze sites, propose urban design interventions and work hands-on with wooden scale models of buildings to create a site plan in three dimensional form from which a basic form-based code will be prepared.

Readings from the New Urbanism: Best Practices Guide will comprise the majority of the required readings for the course. There are no exams, but there will be several pop quizzes. There are five Assignments – three Assignments related to the field trips, one major Assignment analyzing and proposing urban design interventions for two places and a final Assignment
involving preparing a basic site plan and form-bade code. Three of the Assignments are
individual and two are group projects.

Grading
The final grade will be based on Assignments and extra credit may be given based on individual
contribution to in-class discussions. The Assignments will involve written essays and graphics
with captions that illustrate points made in the written essay. Assignments will involve basic
graphic skills in preparing diagrams, measuring and hand drawing street sections, public spaces
and a basic block plan. An engineering scale will be necessary, but no prior design or graphic
skills are required for these assignments. A small roll or sheets of tracing paper, graph paper,
pencils and a camera are necessary.

• Assignments will be graded on a scale of up to 100 points as follows:
  • 50 points for understanding of principles
  • 50 points for the selection and/or creation and captioning of images to illustrate principles

All assignments are due as posted. Late assignments will be reduced 50%. Assignments may be
re-submitted for additional credit at the discretion of the instructor.

This class will adhere to the Rutgers University policy on academic integrity which can be found
at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Absenteeism
Students are expected to attend all classes and field trips. In the event that a student is unable to
attend a class for any reason, it is expected that the student will notify the instructor by email
prior to that class.

Reading Materials
There is only one book assigned to the course:

    New Urbanism: Best Practices Guide
    2009 New Urban News Publications
    www.mewurbannews.com

The following additional reading should be downloaded and printed:

    Charter of the New Urbanism

    Lexicon of the New Urbanism
    2002 Duany-Plater Zyberk & Company (Version 3.2)
    http://www.dpz.com/pdf/LEXICON.PDF

Other reading materials and videos will be assigned during the semester.
9/8/11  1 - Introduction and Overview
Introductions
Lecture: Background and Introduction to Urban Design and the New Urbanism
Reading: Watch Andres Duany lecture

9/12/11  2 – Traditional Urbanism vs. Conventional Suburban Development
Discussion: Andres Duany lecture
Lecture: A Tale of Two Communities (Case studies: Metuchen and Edison)
Equipment Preparation: Bring engineering scale, graph paper, pencils and cameras for Field Trip 1
Readings: Chapter 1 and the Charter of the New Urbanism

9/19/11  3 – Field Trip to Metuchen
Assignment #1: Streetscape Sections and Analysis
Reading: Chapter 8

9/26/11  4 – The Region: Metropolis, City and Town
Discussion: The Charter of the New Urbanism – Region: Metropolis, City, and Town
Lecture: The Region: Metropolis, City, and Town (Case studies: Niagara Escarpment, Mount Joy, Richmond, South Village, Cherry Hill Village, Vernon, Santa Barbara Valley, Overland Park, King of Prussia)
Reading: Chapters 2, 23 & 24

10/3/11  5 – Transit-Oriented Development
Assignment #2: Analysis and Plans of Public Spaces
Reading: Chapter 7

10/10/11  6 – Field Trip to Princeton
Assignment #2: Analysis and Plans of Public Spaces
Reading: Chapters 5 & 9

10/17/11  7 – The Neighborhood and District
Discussion: The Charter of the New Urbanism – Neighborhood, District and Corridor
Lecture: The Neighborhood and District (Case studies: Baldwin Park, The Gulch, Ballpark District and Harbor Town)
Reading: Chapter 3
Assignment #3: Compare and Contrast Two Places (traditional urbanism versus conventional suburban development) including Analysis of the Master Plan and Zoning
10/24/11  8 - The Corridor
Discussion: The Charter of the New Urbanism – Neighborhood, District, and Corridor
Lecture: The Corridor (Case studies: Marlton Circle, Energy Corridor, Hillsborough, Poughkeepsie, LaGrange)
Reading: Chapter 5, 6 and 25

10/31/11  9 – Two Places Studio Work Session
Presentation/Studio: Each student will present Assignment #3 – Compare, Contrast and Analyze Two Places followed by studio review and brainstorming urban design interventions
Assignment #4: Recommend Urban Design Strategies for Improving Two Places from Regional Scale and Neighborhood/District/Corridor Scale (Due November 28)

11/7/11  10 - Block, Street, and Building
Discussion: The Charter of the New Urbanism – Neighborhood, District, and Corridor
Lecture: The Block and Street
Reading: Chapters 5, 7, 8 & 9
Assignment #5: Urban Design Analysis of Hoboken. Each small team will visit Hoboken and prepare an urban design analysis of a few blocks (Due December 8)

11/14/11  11 – Building Types and Architecture
Guest lecturer: Michael DiGeronimo
Lecture: Building Types, Design Guidelines, Pattern Books and Form-Based Codes
Reading: Chapters 10, 16, 17 and 26

11/21/11  Thanksgiving Break – No Class

11/28/11  12 – Presentations on Two Places
Presentations: Each student will present Assignment #4: Recommend Urban Design Strategies for Improving Two Places from Regional Scale and Neighborhood/District/Corridor Scale

12/5/11  13 – Site Planning Boot Camp / Model Workshop Part I
Guest Lecturer: Gonzalo Echeverria
Lecture: Basic site planning dimensions and techniques
Studio: Work with models as a group
Assignment #8: Prepare neighborhood block plan, section, public space and form-based code (Due December 19)

12/12/11  14 – Site Planning / Model Workshop Part II
Guest Lecturer: Gonzalo Echeverria
Presentation: Progress review
Studio: Work with models as a group