



CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course name:	Future Cities Seminar
Course number:	ARCH 3002 BASP
Programs offering course:	Barcelona Global Architecture and Design
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

The contemporary city, the urban phenomenon or the metropolis have been of central and growing interest for the academic community for the past couple of decades. The urban phenomenon and its transformation represent a change in the urban global equilibrium as well as the materialization of globalization. As Bocquet notes: “metropolises are also seen as places where the state of the relationship between global trends, space and society are most legible and their effects, both physical and social, for better or for worse, most spectacular” (2013).

These ever expanding megacities, that have embraced unlimited growth, generate a situation where problems, that were once concentrated and confined to well-defined urban patterns, are no longer relating to traditional urban theories or models. Moreover, the city becomes increasingly complex. It appears that a direct relationship between activities and places no longer exists. In parallel to the accelerated and shocking speed of growth and size, the distribution of densities, land uses and morphologically differentiated areas is no longer defined. Each possible form of this evermore complex urban context brings with it its own set of social, economic and environmental consequences.

In this scenario, along with the current situation of the global crisis, a new sense of social and economic values has emerged, changing the goals of transformation, and making society, the environment and landscape the clue themes of ethical, economic and political debates (Ricci, 2012).

“Perhaps more so than ever before, the shape of cities, how much land they occupy, how much energy they consume, how their transport infrastructure is organized and where people are housed - [...] - all affect the environmental, economic and social sustainability of global society. One of the overriding realizations of the Urban Age is that cities are not just concentrations of problems - which they are - but they are also where problems can be solved” (Burdett et al., 2007).

In this framework, understanding the contemporary urban phenomenon, its effects, and the problematics that arise from it, are fundamental for the formation of young architects today. In this sense, the concept of this seminar is to explore, from a critical point of view, the contemporary urban phenomenon, as well as the new paradigms and models of urban thinking and perspective that emerge with it. This exploration will be undertaken both generally speaking on a global scale and specifically in reference to the particular case of Barcelona. Hence, the students will be asked to critically apply the knowledge they gain through the development of the seminar, also thanks to the interventions of



international experts, to their case study, Barcelona, implementing learning by doing approach

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will have an overview of the contemporary urban phenomenon, with a specific interest in the Mediterranean context, considered by many to be the cradle of civilization. They will understand the issues, challenges and opportunities that arise from this growing phenomenon in a comprehensive framework (cultural, social, sustainable, political, etc.). Moreover, the students will have obtained a critical overview of the new urban paradigms and approaches towards the sustainable development of our future habitat, as well as developing a basis for the construction of their personal approach.

- Students will be able to critically communicate ideas about cities, urban and community development, participation, social space and built environment.
- Students will be able to conduct urban investigations and present their findings coherently in verbal and written formats.
- Students should be able to respond to site characteristics in a meaningful way.
- Students should be able to learn from relevant precedents.
- Students should understand the relationship of architecture to allied disciplines and the importance of interdisciplinary work.
- Students will be able to work productively in a group.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

In class presentations and discussions; readings; site visits; extempore in class exercises.

In order to face and fully grasp the complexities of the contemporary urban phenomenon, the course will follow a macro-methodology, or structure, divided into 5 parts: CONTEXT, PROGRAM, CONCEPT, VISION and PROCESS. The students, as the development phases for future projects, could eventually adopt these.

- CONTEXT is dedicated to the critical analysis, collection and preliminary interpretation of data, as well as the general sense/feeling of the context under examination - varying from the generalized context of the contemporary city, to Barcelona, and the Besos Project Site;
- PROGRAM outlines the objectives of urban scale projects, understanding their transformability through the critical construction and interpretation of data;
- CONCEPT underlines the essential structure of interventions, elaborating and understanding the synthesis of conceptual proposals;
- VISION focuses on the spatial configuration that urban proposals take on, understanding the



- proposed and obtained quality of change;
- PROCESS elaborates the technicalities, modalities, time factors, costs, tools and strategies necessary for the implementation of proposals.

During each of these phases, the course will be developed thanks to a learning by doing philosophy, in particular through brief talks - also with external experts, towards the implementation of the students' knowledge framework, in class discussions and debates, towards the development of the students' critical approach, in class exercises, allowing the students the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained, and site/project visits.

Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade will be based on the following:

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| 1. | Attendance and Class Participation: | 30% |
| 2. | Presentations and in class exercises: | 40% |
| 3. | Final presentation and e-book: | 30% |

Course Requirements

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day's class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 1 class session. If students miss up to 3 class sessions, students' final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 2nd absence, and an 85 if they reach the 3rd absence). **Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 3 absences).**

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Orientation Week
Presentation of Studio, Seminar and Workshop Syllabi



Week 2

Seminar outline introduction
Introduction to Urbanism, Models and Strategies
Figures of the contemporary urban phenomenon.
OPEN DISCUSSION: What is Urbanism? Urban Planning? What are the issues/factors/paradigms of the contemporary city? Is it possible to define the contemporary urban phenomenon (limits/characteristics/factors)? With respect to the dynamicity of the contemporary urban phenomenon, what are the implications/effects on urban and architectural design?
IN CLASS EXERCISE:
Study of the Urban Age Glossary (The Endless City)
Create our own Glossary

Week 3

Multi city coast.
The evolving forms and structures of the Mediterranean Multi-City. New models of urban thinking and perspective.
OPEN DISCUSSION: How can I represent the contemporary urban phenomenon (dynamics/factors)?
IN CLASS EXERCISE:
Mapping the city, first approach to Barcelona: Diagram City
HOMEWORK READINGS: 10 Lessons of Solà- Morales + CRITICAL CONCLUSIONS

Week 4

Barcelona, an urbanism workshop
OPEN DISCUSSION: Critical confrontation between Session 03 in class exercise and the 10 lessons of Solà- Morales
PRESENTATION_READINGS: 10 Lessons of Solà- Morales+ CRITICAL CONCLUSIONS

Week 5

Tour of Barcelona
OPEN DISCUSSION: Relationships between strategies, planning and outcomes
Intro to PROGRAM
HOMEWORK_READINGS:
Recetas Urbanas, urban occupation
Galí + Batlle i Roig, Valle de Can Joan
West 8, Central Waterfront
Stross Landscape Urbanism, Lower Don river
Field Operations, Lake Ontario Park

Week 6

Beyond Urbanism Landscape and Ecological Urbanism
Guest Speaker
OPEN DISCUSSION: Relationships between theory and practice



PRESENTATION_READINGS:

Recetas Urbanas, urban occupation
Gali + Batlle i Roig, Valle de Can Joan
West 8, Central Waterfront
Stross Landscape Urbanism, Lower Don river
Field Operations, Lake Ontario Park

Week 7

TOUR: Tarragona, L'Hort Del Circ refarmthecity.org Coop Urban Agriculture,
Strategies for city resilience with: Hernani Dias and Olga
OPEN DISCUSSION: Relationships between theory and practice
HOMEWORK_READINGS:
Field Operations + Diller-Scofidio, The High Line
Landraum, Agropolis
Field Operations, Fresh Kills Landfill
Chris Reed, Detroit Future City - detroitworksproject.com
MRIO Arquitectos + West 8, Rio Manzanares Masterpla

Week 8

Introduction to New Paradigms: Recycle (ReCITYing)
PRESENTATION_READINGS: projects
Field Operations + Diller-Scofidio, The High Line
Landraum, Agropolis
Field Operations, Fresh Kills Landfill
Chris Reed, Detroit Future City - detroitworksproject.com
MRIO Arquitectos + West 8, Rio Manzanares Masterplan

Week 9

IN CLASS EXERCISE (WORKSHOP):
Recycle Barcelona - Concept

Week 10

VISION
PRESENTATION OF IN CLASS EXERCISE (WORKSHOP):
Recycle Barcelona - Concept
Invited external Jury
VISION
IN CLASS EXERCISE AND OPEN DISCUSSION:
Michel Desvigne, Ile Seguin prefiguration garden
Parking Day
Guerrilla marketing-gardening
Nikola Basic, Piazza del Sole + Organo del Mare
Ecosistema Urbano, Ecoboulevard



Week 11

Introduction to Guest Speaker: Dr. Joan Maroto (UPC)

Social Participation

Participatory process in the development of architectural and urban design

OPEN DISCUSSION: What is city governance? Bottom-up Processes, hopes and outcomes? Can one be without the other?

HOMEWORK_DEBATE: Bottom-up Processes vs Top Down Processes

Students will represent each party; the judge will be an external invited guest

Project prototype development

Studio prototype development. Group descirts and project revisions.

Week 12

2Barcelona 5.0 The Next City

OPEN DISCUSSION: What is the future of the contemporary urban phenomenon?

What are the central issues? How can we imagine shaping this future city?

PRESENTATION_DEBATE: Bottom-up Processes vs Top Down Processes

Students will represent each party the judge will be an external invited guest

Project prototype development

Studio prototype development. Group descirts and project revisions.

Week 13

PREPARATION FINAL PRESENTATIONS

In class work in preparation of Final presentations and e-book

Project prototype development

Studio prototype development. Group descirts and project revisions.

Week 14

Break // PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Project prototype development

Studio prototype development. Group descirts and project revisions.

Week 15

PFINAL PRESENTATIONS OF SEMINAR

e-book submission

Official Program End Date

Course Materials

Recommended Readings

AA. VV., New Geographies 4: Scales of the Earth, Harvard University Press, Cambridge (Massachusetts), 2011

AA. VV., The Metapolis Dictionary of Advanced architecture, Actar, Barcelona, 2003

Bauman Z., Liquid Modernity, Polity Press, Cambridge (UK), 2000

Bianchetti C., Abitare la città contemporanea, Skira, Milano, 2003



- Burdett R., Sudjic D. (eds.), *The Endless City*, Phaidon Press, London, 2007
- Burdett R., *Living the Endless City*, Phaidon, New York, 2007
- Gausa M., *Multi-Barcelona. Hiper-Catalunya. Strategie per una nuova geo-urbanità*, List, Trento, 2005
- Gausa M., *OPEN: Arquitectura y ciudad contemporánea. Teoría e historia de un cambio*, Actar, Barcelona, 2010
- Guallart V., *Geo-Logics, Geography Information Architecture*, Actar, Barcelona, 2008
- Koolhaas R., Boeri S. and Kwinter S., *Mutations*, Actar, Barcelona, 2001
- Lynch K., *The image of the city*, The MIT Press, Cambridge (Massachusetts), 1960
- Mehta S., *Maximum City*, Penguin, London, 2004
- Ricci M., *New Paradigms*, List, Trento, 2012
- Schalansky J., *Atlas of Remote Islands: Fifty Islands I Have Not Visited and Never Will*, Penguin Group, London, 2010
- Waldheim C. (ed.), *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2006
- Wolfurum S. and Nerdinger W. with Schauback S. (eds.), *Multiple City, Urban Concepts 1908/2008*, Jovis, Berlin, 2008

Specific bibliography for project readings:

- Allen S. (1999) *Points + Lines: Diagrams and Projects for the City*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York.
- Bélanger P. (2009), "Landscape as Infrastructure," in *Landscape Journal* I, Vol. 28 Issue 1, pp. 79-95.
- Bélanger P. (2010a), "Regionalization: Probing the Urban Future of the Great Lakes Region," in *JOLA Journal of Landscape Architecture*, Fall 2010, pp. 37-48.
- Bélanger P. (2010b), "Redefining Infrastructure," in Mostafavi M., Doherty G. (editors), *Ecological Urbanism*, Lars Müller Publishers, Baden.
- Corner J. (2003), "Landscape Urbanism," in Mostafavi M., Najle C. (editors), *Landscape Urbanism: a Manual for the Machinic Landscape*, Architectural Association, London.
- Corner J. (2006), "Terra Fluxus," in Waldheim C. (editor), *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York.
- Daskalakis G., Waldheim C., Young C. (editors, 2001), *Stalking Detroit*, Actar Editorial, Barcelona.
- Glover R. (2001), "City Making and the Making of Downsview Park," in Czerniak J. (editor), *Case: Downsview Park Toronto*, Prestel Verlag, Munich, London, New York, 34-39.
- Harvey D. (1982), *The Limits to Capital*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Harvey D. (1989), *The Urban Experience*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.
- Harvey D. (2001), *Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography*, Edinburgh University Press, and Edinburgh.
- Hoffman D. (2001), "The best the world has to offer," in Daskalakis G., Waldheim C., Young C. (editors), *Stalking Detroit*, Actar Editorial, Barcelona, pp. 42-47
- Mertins D. (2001), "Downsview Park International Design Competition," in Czerniak J. (editor), *Case: Downsview Park Toronto*, Prestel Verlag, Munich, London, New York, pp. 24-31.
- Mostafavi M., Doherty G. (editors, 2010), *Ecological Urbanism*, Lars Muller, Baden, Switzerland.
- Smith N. (1991), *Uneven Development*, Blackwell, Cambridge, Mass.
- Reed C., 2006, "Public works practice," in Waldheim C. (editor), *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York.
- Ricci M. (2011), «Reduce, Reuse, Recycle», in P. Ciorra, S. Marini (editors), *Re-cycle*, Electa, Milano.



Schumacher P., Rogner C. (2001), "After Ford," in Daskalakis G., Waldheim C., Young C. (editors), *Stalking Detroit*, Actar Editorial, Barcelona.

Soja E. (2000), *Postmetropolis: Critical Studies of Cities and Regions*. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford - Malden, MA.

Waldheim C. (2002), "Landscape Urbanism: a Genealogy," in *Praxis Journal*, 4, pp. 4-17.

Waldheim C. (2004), "Detroit: Motor City," in El-Khoury R., Robbins E. (editors), *Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory, and Urban Design*, Routledge, New York- London, pp. 77-97.

Waldheim C. (editor, 2006), *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York