

Urban Design Studio

EAS 750 Winter 2022

Tuesday and Thursday 13:00 - 16:00

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Introduction

The Urban Design Studio focuses on design in urban contexts at a site scale while introducing students to spatial configuration in urban environments that integrate the many cultural, spatial, architectural, and ecological issues of these places. This studio aims to further develop skills in conceptualization and visualization through consideration of contemporary urban design issues. It builds on your work completed during the Metro Studio with a focus on urban form, materials and process while exploring site design of the public realm.

Objectives

1. To gain experience in documenting, analyzing and understanding urban form and its evolution
2. To develop knowledge of key concepts and principles of urban design and their application through the exploration of an approach and methodology for urban design
3. To develop the ability to address issues and opportunities at the site scale in an urban context with an emphasis on three-dimensional form through a process of design development
4. To gain experience in graphic thinking and communication as it relates to design in an urban setting

The course aims for students to engage with complex urban design challenges and to achieve levels of design resolution well beyond their previous studio assignments, while critically engaging and challenging their own design processes. Students are required to take a clear position on the issues at stake and articulate that position visually and spatially through their own individual project. All assignment work will be project-based, with each of the stages building upon one another to produce a final design that demonstrates technical, theoretical, ecological and spatial competencies.

Teaching Approach

This course follows a studio-based format and is structured to allow students to develop a greater understanding of new design processes & methodologies as they relate to urban design specifically and the urban environment in general. The studio is largely self-directed, that is, you must work to uncover the project rather than being assigned one. Students are required to participate in the discussion of design ideas and processes at a class, group and individual level.

Grading/Student Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be done on the basis of day-to-day performance as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While the *product* of studio work is important, equally important is the student's ability to develop a practical, appropriate and coherent design *process*. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each studio period.

Because the studio work is evaluated during the interim and final reviews, all work must be completed on time, and all students must take part in the presentations and reviews. Late submission of material to be presented in reviews is not acceptable (grades will be deducted for late submissions). Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups. Attendance and engagement are expected as a requirement for progress in design, and is characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions.

Project phases due dates

1	Precedents and Materials	20%
2.	Design Development	40%
3.	Final Proposal	40%

Total **100%**

A Note on Critical Review

Critical review of student work is vital to design projects. This is part of feed-back for learning purposes. Such reviews must not be misunderstood as indicators of standards and they are different from assessment.

Students have a responsibility to attend critical reviews at the appointed time as part of the learning process.

Review panels are composed of internal and external members for the appointed times and cannot be re-composed to consider late submissions. Consequently, late work will not receive a critical review, though it will be assessed with marks.

- **Critical Review:** May take place during the development phases of a project as well as at the time of the final submission. Its purpose is to identify strengths and weaknesses in the work and to offer suggestions to generally encourage the student. An encouraging critical review does not necessarily mean a good assessment result.
- **Assessment:** May take place at a stage in a project or on final submission (or both). Its purpose is to value the work in terms of the objectives stated in the Syllabus and project brief and to express this as a grade.

Schedule

week	week of	Tuesday	Thursday
1	3-Jan		Studio intro; project handout
2	10-Jan	studio	studio
3	17-Jan	Phase 1 due	studio
4	24-Jan	studio	studio
5	31-Jan	Phase 2 due	studio
6	7-Feb	studio	studio
7	14-Feb	studio	Phase 3 due

* dates subject to change as needed

Student Well-Being

Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, mental health, alcohol or other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. If the source of your stressors is academic, please contact me so that we can find solutions together. For personal concerns, U-M offers many resources, some of which are listed at Resources for Student Well-being on the Well-being for U-M Students website. You can also search for additional resources on that website.

COVID-19 Statement

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff on campus, it is important for each of us to be mindful of safety measures that have been required for our protection. By returning to campus, you have acknowledged your responsibility for protecting the collective health of our community. Your participation in this course on an in-person basis is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the State of Michigan and the University, including maintaining physical distancing of six feet from others, and properly wearing a face covering in class. Other applicable safety measures may be described in the [Wolverine Culture of Care](#), the [University's Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#) and SEAS [Questions & Concerns document](#). Your ability to participate in this course in-person as well as your grade may be impacted by failure to comply with campus safety measures. Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#). If you are unable or unwilling to adhere to these safety measures while in a face-to-face class setting, you will be required to participate on a remote basis (if available) or to disenroll from the class. I also encourage you to review the [Statement of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#) and check-in with the Office of Academic Affairs Director to navigate support and resources for you.

COVID-19 requires a flexible and dynamic response - keep in mind that elements of the syllabus, assignments and course structure may change based on potential public health developments.
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