Senior Research Studio in Architecture Barcelona Studio: Organic Urbanism

EVDA 782 B03 F (0-16) Fall 2016

Manager: John Brown

brownj@ucalgary.ca

Coordinating Instructor: Rafael Gómez-Moriana

rafagomo@gmail.com mobile: +34 696 063 926

Office: Barcelona studio

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00 - 14:00

Guest Instructor: Arturo Frediani

frediani@coac.net mobile: +34 667726742

Course Schedule: Mondays 15:00 – 18:00

Wednesdays 10:00 – 13:00 (unless noted otherwise)

Introduction

This is a research design studio in which students collaborate with design faculty in exploring projects that engage contemporary issues defining the built and natural environments. Students choose topics outlined by faculty research expertise, including sustainable design, digital design and fabrication, architecture and the contemporary city, and innovative practice. Studio to be taken with two EVDS half courses complimentary to the studio topic.

Objectives

- 1. To become familiar with the culture and spatial practices of another part of the world, especially as these relate to architecture and urbanism.
- 2. To gain an understanding of the ways that architecture and urban design are shaped by—and in turn shape—urban life.
- 3. To apply empirical observation and analysis of an unfamiliar built environment toward a design problem in that very environment.
- 4. To develop and refine architectural design skills for dense, multiple-use, and highly complex urban situations.
- 5. To resolve an architectural and urban design problem beyond the scale of a singular architectural object so as to include those of building typology, the city block, landscape, public open space, and infrastructure.

Teaching Approach

Students work on their projects individually, except in some stages in which work is carried out in groups. The course is conducted as a design studio, with studio instructors meeting with students on a regular basis to review progress, discuss matters related to the project, provide feedback, and give direction. Project content and progress is also discussed and reviewed through informal pin-up sessions, and formal project presentations (i.e. interim and final reviews). Formal reviews normally include invited reviewers from within the Faculty, the University and/or elsewhere.

The Barcelona offering of EVDS 782 is conducted as a design investigation of relevant current urban issues through hypothetical projects for real sites in that city. All classes, meetings and reviews will take place in the studio situated at Makers of Barcelona (MOB) at C/Bailén 11.

Content: Topic Areas

STUDIO THEME: Organic Urbanism

The city is the continuous formal answer to the opportunity of living sedentarily. It's a way of intensifying the chances of communication as well as multiplying the environmental power of a species that originally evolved from a nomadic ground. Architecture is an efficient material answer to the paradox of a nomadic body coexisting with a tribal or social self-consciousness. Our individual experiences within a community, when compressed and distilled, become culture. Our cultures, when challenged and distilled become, in the long run, biological evolution. They become changes in the animal that we are and improvements in our genetic design. The aim of our studio is to reproduce, within the class, this three-levelled dynamic balance; to evolve an in-vitro urban system by simulating the actual condition of a contemporary environment. We will take an existing real situation and interact with it to produce conflict and consensus while designing individual architectural projects in conjunction with a multi-scalar strategic urban plan.

The site of the studio project is a stretch of steep hillside that physically separates the modern

neighborhood of La Font de la Guatlla from Montjuïch park, a topographical feature whose defensibility made it attractive to the founders of Barcino, the ancient Roman colony from which Barcelona originated two millennia ago. Too steep to be used as a park, the slope is currently a 'terrain-vague' that is slowly eroding. The program is to 'urbanize' the slope organically with livework patio houses. After an initial research period, students are to collectively develop a strategic urban plan, subsequently working in five groups of four students to develop five city blocks. Finally, students will design their own live-work patio house proposals in detail.

Keywords: organic urbanism, hillside urbanism, vernacular architecture, patio housing type, live-work space, climate-optimizing design.

PROJECT STAGES

Stage 1: Site Analysis

Pinup Wednesday 21 September 10:00

Stage 2: Collective Urban Plan (UP)

Stage 3: City Block (CB) + UP 2.0

Stage 4: Patio House + CB 2.0 + UP 3.0

Stage 5: Final Presentation

Stage 6: Documentation

Pinup Wednesday 21 September 10:00

Mid-Term Wednesday 26 October 10:00

Pinup Monday 14 November 15:00

Final Review Monday 28 November 10:00

Hand in Monday 5 December 12:00 MST

More detailed items such as site information, programmatic requirements, and methodology will be supplied at the outset of each stage.

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be based on the projects to be completed during the term. Each project will be graded for both content and presentation. Phases 1-3 of the studio are entirely comprised of group project work and the grades will be assigned to each group as a whole and each student working in the group will receive the same grade. Phase 4 is an individual project to document the work of the semester in an 8.5x11 PDF publication. The document will contain graphic and written descriptions of the minor and major design projects as well as a written critical reflection on the research work. Graphic standard for the publication and further details on the critical reflection will be provided during the term.

Students will be expected to complete each of the course assignments. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 30% or more they will fail the course.

Total:	100%
Stage 6:	5%
Stage 5:	35%
Stage 4:	10%
Stage 3:	30%
Stage 2:	10%
Stage 1:	10%

Course Session Schedule

1	11	10.0	
I	Mon	12 Sep	Syllabus. Introductory lecture: "Evolutionary Aesthetics of Architecture
	\A/l	15:00	and Urbanism. Introduction to the Instinct of Architecture".
2	Wed	14 Sep 10:00	Studio work: 1:100 working model of site. Digital site model. Precedent
3	Mon	19 Sep	analysis. Typological analysis of adjacent buildings and landscapes. Studio work: 1:100 working model of site. Digital site model. Precedent
3	MOH	15:00	analysis. Typological analysis of adjacent buildings and landscapes.
4	Wed	21 Sep	Stage 1 Pin up.
7	wca	10:00	siage i i iii op.
5	Mon	26 Sep	Site Visit. Collective urban plan negotiation (in situ).
	741011	15:00	one visit. Concentro orban plan nogenation (iii silo).
6	Wed	28 Sep	Lecture: "Shaped by Architecture: Paleontology of Architecture and Early
		10:00	Control of Fire. The Instinct of Art according to Denis Dutton: Natural and
			Sexual Selection in human Evolution".
7	Mon	03 Oct	Studio work: Collective urban plan negotiation.
		15:00	
8	Wed	05 Oct	Stage 2 Pin up.
		10:00	
9	Mon	17 Oct	Lecture: "Architecture and the Baldwin Effect: Self-domestication as a
		15:00	powerful evolutionary trigger. Territorial drives: The Instinct of Landscape
			(and of urban form). Reviewing Kevin Lynch's Image of the City from an
			evolutionary perspective".
10	Wed	19 Oct	Studio work: City block negotiation, Collective urban plan 2.0
		10:00	
11	Mon	24 Oct	Studio work: City block negotiation, Collective urban plan 2.0
10	147I	15:00	Clara C AA'd Tarra Da 'a
12	Wed	26 Oct 10:00	Stage 3 Mid-Term Review.
13	Wed	02 Nov	Lecture: "Back to the Future: Urbanism Beyond Urban Sprawl. The Instinct
13	weu	10:00	of Coziness: From Gottfried Semper to Frank Lloyd Wright". The Instinct of
		10.00	Ornament: A critical Taxonomy (or Learning again from Las Vegas).
14	Mon	07 Nov	Studio work: Patio Houses. City block 2.0; Collective urban plan 3.0
	771011	15:00	State Welker and Heades. City Stack 2.0, Collective orbain plantate
15	Thur	10 Nov	Studio work: Patio Houses. City block 2.0; Collective urban plan 3.0
		15:00	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
16	Mon	14 Nov	Stage 4 Pin up.
		15:00	
17	Wed	16 Nov	Lecture: "The Instinct of Monumentality. The Graceful and the
		10:00	Picturesque. Flawed Beauty: Fascination with Ruins."
18	Mon	21 Nov	Studio work: Patio Houses 2.0
		15:00	
19	Thur	24 Nov	Studio work: Patio Houses 2.0
		15:00	
20	Mon	28 Nov	Final Review.
		10:00	

Grading Scale

Faculty shall use the following methods for reporting grades and for determining final grades. Final grades shall be reported as letter grades, with the grade point value as per column 2. Final grades shall be calculated according to the 4-point range in column 3. Should faculty members evaluate any individual exams or assignments by percentage grades, the equivalents shown in column 4 shall be used.

Students must be informed of the method of calculation, and should be able to, from the grades provided by the instructor, determine their standing.

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignment(s) evaluated by percentage grades will be converted into letter grade equivalents as shown.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
В	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
С	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Notes:

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Bibliography

Busquets, Joan. Barcelona: The Urban Construction of a Compact City (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University, 2002)

Manuel de Solà-Morales: 10 Lessons on Barcelona (Barcelona: ACTAR, 2008)

Soria i Puig, Arturo, ed. Cerdà: The Five Bases of the General Theory of Urbanization (Madrid: Electa España, 1999)

Estanislau Roca, Inés Aquilué & Renata Gomes: Walking the City: Barcelona as an Urban Experience (Barcelona: Universitat de Barcelona, 2015)

Marshall, Tim, ed. Transforming Barcelona (London: Routledge, 2004)

Pla, Maurici. Catalonia: A Guide to Modern Architecture 1880-2007 (Barcelona: COAC, 2008)

Manuel Gausa, Marta Cervelló, Maurici Pla, Ricardo Devesa: Barcelona Modern Architecture Guide 1860 – 2013 (Barcelona: ACTAR, 2015)

Hughes, Robert. Barcelona (New York: Vintage Books, 1993)

Rowe, Peter G. Building Barcelona: A Second Renaixença (Barcelona: ACTAR, 2006)

"Agenda 21, the Possible Future", Barcelona Mediterranean Metropolis #59

"Sustainability and New Energies", Barcelona Mediterranean Metropolis #67

St. John Wilson, Colin. The Other Tradition of Modern Architecture. The Uncompleted Project (London: Black Dog Pulbishing, 2007)

Palmer Henrietta (Ed.) Access to Resources. An Urban Agenda (Stockholm: The Royal Institute of Art, 2014) Dutton, Denis. The Instinct of Art: Beauty, Pleasure & Human Evolution. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) https://www.ted.com/talks/denis_dutton_a_darwinian_theory_of_beauty?language=en)

Clark, Roger H. and Michael Pause. *Precedents in Architecture* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2012) Rudowsky, Bernard. *Architecture Without Architects* (New York: MoMA, 1964)

CACB Student Performance Criteria:

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course at a secondary level: A3: Graphic Skills; B1: Design Skills.

Notes:

- 1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
- 2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
- 3. Plagiarism Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
- Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 (http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
- 5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)
- 6. Safewalk information (http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk)
- 7. Contact Info for: Student Union (http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/contact); Graduate Student representative(http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights).

Fall 2016 Term Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Sept
10 - 13 h								
15 - 18 h								
19 - 21 h								
	11	12	13			16	17	
10 - 13 h	La Diada		1	2	Excursion	2		
15 - 18 h		1 Intro			Turó Rovira			
19 - 21 h								
	18	19			22			
10 - 13 h			3	4 Pinup		4	La Mercè	
15 - 18 h		3						
19 - 21 h					MX_SI lecture			
	25	26		28	29	30	1	Oct
10 - 13 h			5	6				
15 - 18 h		5						
19 - 21 h					JCST lecture			
	2	3		5	6	7	8	
10 - 13 h			6	8 Pinup		7		
15 - 18 h		7			Walden 7 tour			
19 - 21 h								
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
10 - 13 h				Nat'l Holiday				
15 - 18 h			BLOCK		WEEK			
19 - 21 h								
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
10 - 13 h			8	10		9		
15 - 18 h		9						
19 - 21 h					C Torró lecture			
	23	24	25		27	28	29	
10 - 13 h			10	12 Mid Term				
15 - 18 h		11						
19 - 21 h								
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Nov
10 - 13 h			All Saints	13		11		
15 - 18 h						12		
19 - 21 h								
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
10 - 13 h								
15 - 18 h		14			15			
19 - 21 h				T Girones lecture				
	13	14	15		17	18	19	
10 - 13 h				17				
15 - 18 h		16 Pinup						
19 - 21 h			Q Rosell lecture		E Massip lecture			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
10 - 13 h								
15 - 18 h		18			19			
19 - 21 h								
	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	Dec
10 - 13 h		20 Final						
15 - 18 h		21 Review						
19 - 21 h		Closing event						
,								
	Studio		Lecture course		Special events			

Group 1	Janine	Law		
	Nicholas	Heathcott		
	Cassandra	Milford		
	Carson	Long		
	Amanda	Vanderzee		
	Jayde	King		
Group 2	Carolyn	Andrews		
	Noah	Covington-Jarvis		
	Madeleine	Chu		
	Braden	Horner		
	John	Ferguson		
	Charlea	Greig		
Group 3	Cody	Kupper		
	Christina	James		
	Kalie	Widmer		
	Jordan	Polanski		
	Karolina	Hanula		
Group 4	Anne	Gorsalitz		
	Dustin	Braun		
	Jubril	Idowu		
	Stephanie	Karpuk		
	Jennifer	Bassett		
	Francesco	Petrisano		

Assignment 1: Site Analysis

The site of the studio project is a stretch of steep hillside that physically separates the modern neighborhood of La Font de la Guatlla from Montjuïc park. Too steep to be used as a park, the slope is currently a 'terrain-vague' that is slowly eroding. The program is to 'urbanize' the slope *organically* with live-work patio houses. To this end, the site must be analyzed with respect to the geographic, historical and cultural context. Precedents with respect to organic urbanism must be studied, as well as architectural precedents sited in steep terrain. The topography and its built urban context as well as vegetation must be modelled both digitally and physically.

Class assignments:

- 1. Construct a high-quality **3-D digital model** of the existing site, including all existing buildings, topographical features, and open spaces. Buildings should not just be represented merely as abstract volumes, but should include sufficient detail to convey the architectural style. This model is to be built collectively by the entire class, and shared subsequently by the entire class. Digital model is to be presented along with a **light-shade analysis**
- 2. Construct a **physical model** of the site at scale 1:200, minimum dimensions 200 x 150 cm. This model is to be built collectively by the entire class, and shared subsequently by the entire class as a base model with which to display and photograph models of your eventual design interventions.

Group assignments:

Group 1:

Historical study of site and context, until 2000. Growth pattern of area over time, historical significance of 1929 Universal Exposition (including German Pavilion and El Pueblo Español theme park), 1992 Olympic Games. Archival research (maps, photographs) and field research into visible traces of past activity.

Group 2:

Comparative precedent study of local / international examples of informal / formal urbanism sited on steep terrain. Typological attributes, political economy, material culture.

Group 3:

Physical attributes study. Geology, climate, drainage, visual references (natural and artificial).

Group 4:

Land-use study of site and context, current. Type of occupation of surrounding buildings (commercial, residential, industrial, leisure, mixed-use, etc.), transportation flows; landscapes (parks, gardens and 'terrains vagues'). Analyze maps for patterns, behaviors, anomalies.



