School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Master of Architecture Program
University of Calgary

Arch 606: Intermediate Architectural Design Studio
Fall 2021 (Full course)
Tuesdays and Fridays, 14:00-18:00 hrs.
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Rooms: TBD

Title: West Downtown (Calgary), Programming the Tall Urban Building

INTRODUCTION

This course is the third studio in the Master of Architecture Program sequence and examines scalar, systemic, and material aspects of urban and architectural ecosystems. The studio will address the design of a mid-sized, urban tall building and associated public space, which will be developed with the explicit intention to effectively connect the design of urban space and architecture to the needs and potential of the surrounding communities. The tall building in this studio will comprise three distinct functions and have a volume no larger than 60,000 m^3. The relative mix, size, and delineation of programs (including deliverables) will be determined by instructors and through the site analysis and interpretation phase of the project; the program understood as a critical catalyst for the site.

In recent years we have come to realize that the viability of downtown Calgary is under threat, mainly due to changes in the global oil and gas industry. This has caused disruption in dramatic and unforeseen ways, with serious implications on the ways we view, inhabit, and utilize urban space in Calgary's core. How can a portion of the downtown core (the West End) be reimagined as an economic hub and a community? How can the typology of the tall building be reconceptualized? How can existing public assets (spaces, institutions, etc.) be reinvented or rejuvenated? How can a high-density environment be made to be sustainable? How can marginalized people be integrated into an equitable and diverse environment?

This studio critically considers the re-design of the West End of Calgary's downtown (bounded by the Bow River, CPR rail line, Shaw Millennium Park, and 8th Street SW). Observed through the lens of reimaging urban community and building typologies, the studio explores the legacy and future potential of the multi-functioning tall building as an under-theorized building typology. The project sites in the West End (downtown Calgary) will be determined by individual instructors, these will be understood as laboratories of urban issues as they include dense urban fabric, brown field residual spaces, recreational landscapes, mixed-use fabric, equitable space, and large infrastructural systems.

Each studio section will analyze and interpret the context (a digital model of the context will be developed by all five sections). Further, the impact that human constructions and infrastructures have had on global ecosystems (and vice versa) requires a comprehensive understanding of the material and technical complexity of built environments to reduce the consumption of vital resources and to respond to various environmental challenges.

The following topics will be introduced conceptually during the semester: urban structure/analysis, programming, public space design, tall building typologies, materials and assemblies, equitable design, and environmental systems. This course operates with other courses during the semester including ARCH 600: Structures for Architects I and ARCH 602: Introduction to Design Theories. All studio sections will coordinate graphic conventions at the end of term to create a single studio booklet demonstrating a suitable range of approaches.

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course:

Primary Level: A1: Design Theories, Precedents, and Methods; A2: Design Skills; A3: Design Tools; A4: Program Analysis; A5: Site Context and Design; A8: Design Documentation

Secondary Level: A6: Urban Design; B1: Critical Thinking and Communication: B5: Ecological Systems; C2: Materials; C3: Structural Systems

Note: students entering M1 from other institutions are required to take the Workshop Skills course.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop design skills through the design of a mid-sized project, based on a critical understanding of an urban condition, complex program, and contemporary architectural processes.
2. To develop introductory knowledge of programming, materials and assemblies, building systems, and structural concepts.
3. To develop skills and awareness of urban contexts through research, analysis, and interpretation, leading to an appropriate architectural project.
4. To develop site design, graphic, concept design, and design development skills.
5. To understand the concept that buildings are ecologies that participate in larger ecologies (flow systems), and to understand the role that technology plays in this interface.

TEACHING APPROACH

In this studio there will be five sections, each covering the same basic material and employing the same schedule, but through different projects, sites, and pedagogical approaches (students will have the opportunity to express preferences for their section prior to the beginning of the semester). Each instructor will provide detailed project descriptions throughout the semester. Guidance and feedback will be provided during informal 1:1 discussions and formal reviews. The work will be done individually (with some research work potentially done in small groups). The studio will be process-oriented, allowing students some latitude to develop their own design methodologies.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, MEANS OF EVALUATION AND SCHEDULE

Students will be expected to follow all assignments, to be present for studio on Tuesdays and Fridays (and as otherwise required by the instructor/schedule) and attend all lectures and reviews. Students will also be expected to read any assigned readings. Detailed project descriptions will be provided throughout the term by the various instructors. The following is the general breakdown of assignments:

Phase 1	Research, Analysis, Programming, Making	30%
	Tuesday, September 7 – Friday, October 1, 2021 (4 weeks)	
	Context Digital Model: September 7 – 14 (1 week)	
	Phase 1 Review: Friday, October 1	
Block Week	Monday, October 4 – Friday, October 8	
Phase 2	Concept Development/Design Development	30%
	Tuesday, October 12 – Friday, November 5 (4 weeks)	
	Phase 2 Review – Friday, November 5	
Term Break	Monday, November 8 – Friday, November 12	
Phase 3	Design Development/Final Presentation	30%
	Tuesday, November 16 – Wednesday, December 8 (3.5 weeks)	

Final Phase 3 Review: December 13-16
(Final dates and deadlines to be determined)

Phase 4   Final Digital Portfolio/Publication   10%

READINGS

Refer to detailed project handouts and Arch 602 Course Reader.

SPECIAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation. The University has approved supplemental fee for this course of $150.00.

GRADING SCALE

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
B	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.
C	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	

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.

Students will be required 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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students

who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: 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, (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. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION: All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY: Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/

MEDIA AND RECORDING: University Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html
Recording of lectures (other than audio recordings that are pre-arranged as part of an authorized accommodation) is not permitted. Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor or authorization from Student Accessibility Services. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines