Senior Research Studio in Architecture   **EVDA 782.09 B05 W (0-16)**
North-west Docklands, Melbourne   **Winter 2012**

Manager:	**John Brown**
	brownj@ucalgary.ca
Coordinator:	**Jenny Rayment**
	thegrapevine@bigpond.com, mobile: +61 411 202 066
Primary Instructor:	**Lucinda McLean**
	bm@nmbw.com.au, mobile: +61 425 714 319
	Contact hours: Monday and Wednesday 2-5 pm (+ overlap time)
Secondary Instructors:	**Helen Day**
	helenmday@yahoo.com
	Contact hours: Friday 2-5 pm (+ overlap time)

Introduction
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 one 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 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 that includes building typology, the city block, landscape, public open space and infrastructure.

6. To experience and understand the dynamics of working in a group situation to develop a common urban design response, and on a more individual basis to develop architectural propositions.

Teaching Approach
There will be both group work and individual work involved in this studio. Design approaches to the site and surroundings will be developed in groups of 3-4 students, followed by independent analysis to generate developed architectural concepts.

The site will be interrogated for its capacity to develop as a (new) Melbourne neighbourhood that is well-integrated with the diverse surrounds and well-connected with local movement and environmental links and networks.

In parallel to these large scale considerations students will undertake individual research and documentation of buildings and spaces in Melbourne. These studies will feed into both the large scale site design and the development of select pieces and interfaces of the project.

The course is conducted in a studio format, with studio instructors and sessional contributors meeting with group members on a regular basis to: provide information regarding the site and its context, prompt and promote ideas and conceptual framework; review progress, discuss matters related to the project, give feedback; and provide overall direction. Project content and progress is also discussed and reviewed through regular informal pin-up sessions, and formal project presentations (i.e. interim and final reviews). Formal reviews will include invited reviewers from RMIT, the City of Melbourne, local professionals, possibly personnel from other areas of government, and the University of Calgary at the conclusion of the studio.

All classes, meetings and reviews will take place in the studio seminar space situated in RMIT Building 45 at 33 Lygon Street unless indicated otherwise by your instructor.

At this stage, it is anticipated that students will have 24-hour access to the studio space. This will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester.

Content: Topic Areas

STUDIO THEME: New Melbourne … lessons from old Melbourne

In the last ten years there has been a significant shift in the city centre of Melbourne, from being a predominantly business and retail centre to a place to live and visit. This is manifest in many ways: the appropriation of many small underutilised public spaces; increased commercial intensity along the pedestrian laneways that weave through the grid street system; the introduction of outdoor street dining and street vending (including pop-up retail such as florists, newspaper and fruit sellers); and the successful re-use of warehouse and office buildings for housing and many new residential, cultural and business uses.

As a result of the city centre transformation, the inner suburbs have experienced increased intensity and housing density. These suburbs are generally made up of a nineteenth century street grid and service laneway pattern, with row housing of one or two storeys, more recent higher density housing and hospitality services (particularly cafes, bars and restaurants), and a local centre (generally via shopping strip).

The Docklands area to the immediate west of the city centre was originally part of the Lower Yarra River delta, and was for thousands for years a hunting ground and meeting place for Aboriginal people. The first European settlers arrived in 1803 and the area subsequently became one of Victoria's first and busiest ports. Today it is one of Australia's largest urban renewal projects. The past 10+ years has seen the Docklands transform from an underutilised and derelict area into a new harbourside destination and key drawcard for business, residents and visitors. The area is intended to be a well-connected extension of the city centre, with a focus on the provision of service businesses (finance, insurance, headquarter offices) and housing with a public water front.

Of particular note:
- The transformation of Docklands from industrial port into a new city neighbourhood is only partially complete, and at this point in time, more than half of Docklands remains to be developed.
- Over the past 10 years, Docklands has built a reputation for its environmental commitment and is well placed to become a world leader in sustainable practices.
- The waterways support the distinctive character and range of activities in Docklands, providing a new public realm experience for Melbourne and the location or backdrop for a diverse array of public events.
- The evolving character of Docklands continues to create the perfect environment for innovation, and there has been a supportive philosophy of "trying new things and taking measured risks" to develop new solutions which may have wider benefits.

This studio studies existing and transformed spaces and interventions in the city centre and inner suburbs. It probes their relevance to a large site within the emerging Docklands precinct. Lines of enquiry will address issues such as:

- Are there lessons to learn from Melbourne's city centre and inner suburb refurbishment? From Melbourne's transformations? Design lessons? Programming lessons?
- How can these lessons become relevant to this particular site and its endeavour to be an engaging and intense part of Melbourne's newest inner suburb?

The (largely) brownfield site selected for this studio offers a curious, even schizophrenic array of interfaces: a motorway overpass, a reconfigured creek, riparian landscape, an observation wheel, container storage, an indoor ice-skating rink, service entries to retail buildings and vacant land for future redevelopment (and earmarked for public open space).

A particular response to living in, working in and visiting this location is required.

The residential component of Docklands will proportionally have the greatest increase over the next decade. The studio will explore innovative and diverse housing typologies **and** adaptable community building typologies that respond to the site's physical peculiarities and a citywide need for residential intensification. By helping to generate more housing options that accommodate a diverse range of households and incomes, Docklands will be accessible for people at all stages of life and create a strong, harmonious and inclusive community.

To help explore this, a separate Studio Briefing – incorporating geo-social context, future physical, cultural and environmental objectives, and design considerations – has been developed to provide a formative resource for students for the Docklands area in general and the Studio site in particular. This forms an annexure to the Course Outline.

The urban layout and morphology will be created in tandem with the built form typologies (housing and community building). A deep confluence between built form and public streets and spaces will be imperative. An ultimate symbiosis between built form and public spaces will be pursued to benefit many future users: dwellers, cyclists, tourists, picnics, recreationists (bowlers, swimmers, cricketers, netballers, etc).

The housing and community building types will draw inspiration from:
- the physical site attributes
- concentration/intensification (densification)
- a range of types
- Melbourne case studies (physical and programmatic interventions)

The research component will involve Investigating Melbourne's inner urban morphology (neighbourhoods / city centre) by experiencing sites including:
- concentrated housing typologies
- public space typologies (parks, cycle trails, river walks, creek trails, squares, lanes)
- community recreational facilities (bowling clubs, swimming pools, sports clubs and fields)
- 'Little Streets', lanes and arcades

Several talks and tours will be arranged to augment this in addition to the readings and links that have been provided.

Special attention will be given to precedents that are 'quintessentially Melbourne' and consider relationships residential built form and between public streets and spaces. An understanding of scale and density will be formative in this regard.

PROJECT PHASES

Phase 1. Context analysis, information, mapping	Review 1: Monday 9 Jan 2012
Phase 2. Urban design / master planning	Review 2: Monday 23 Jan 2012 (evening)
Phase 3. Architectural design / development	Review 3: Friday 17 Feb 2012

The coordinator and studio instructors will issue more detailed information and requirements as the studio progresses.

Course Schedule

Please refer to the Program Schedule at the end of this document. This will build in additional information regarding sequencing, sessional staff, etc as the studio evolves, and will likely be updated and recirculated each week or two.

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be graded for both content and presentation on the following basis:

Group work (phase 1 and 2): 40%
Individual work (phase 3): 60%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	76-79.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	73-75.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-72.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	66-69.99	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	63-65.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	60-62.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	56-59.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	50-55.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-49.99	

Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade. A grade point value of 3.0 on the 4-Point Scale is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.

Readings / Links

Please refer to the Studio Briefing paper for a comprehensive listing of references. Preparatory readings include:

Docklands The First Decade, VicUrban, 2010
http://www.docklandsseconddecade.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/VicUrban-Docklands-10-year-doc1.pdf

Docklands The Second Decade website
http://www.docklandsseconddecade.com/docklands-today/

Future Melbourne Community Plan
http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutCouncil/PlansandPublications/Pages/FutureMelbourne.aspx
and wiki http://www.futuremelbourne.com.au/wiki/view/FMPlan

Places for People – Melbourne 2004, City of Melbourne/Gehl Architects, 2005
http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutCouncil/PlansandPublications/Pages/PlacesforPeople2004.aspx

Places for People 1994 (hardcopy only – to be made available at start of course)

Grids & Greenery (hardcopy only – to be made available at start of course)

Special Budgetary Requirements
The University has approved supplemental fees for this course in the amount of $92.00

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.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
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.
4. 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/su-structure/contact-info); Graduate Student representative(http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/) and Student Ombudsman's Office (http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights).