Senior Research Studio in Architecture **EVDA 782.09 B05 W (0-16)**
URBAN FUTURES MELBOURNE **Winter 2013**

Manager: **John Brown**
brownj@ucalgary.ca

Primary Instructor: **Ben Milbourne**

Secondary Instructors: **Laura Martires**

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 explore architectural ideas across a ranges of scales from the urban structure and form at the city scale; down to the landscape and architectural scale of program and space; and ultimately develop concepts into the material resolution of projects.

2. To develop site specific design strategies at an urban level whilst reflecting and applying abstract concepts of density/ lifestyle.

3. To develop and implement process based design strategies, within analogue (physical models, sketching, prototyping) and digital (3D modeling, Grasshopper)contexts.

4. To develop student skills in communication of design ideas in plan, section and elevation.

5. To develop student skills in digital and physical modelling, as a means of design development and communication.

Teaching Approach
As an intensive design studio, students will be expected to spend most of their time working together in a 'workshop style' environment. Full day workshop sessions, exploring specific issues or developing key skills will be run for the first phase of the studio. With the second & third phases of the studio, one on one appointment sessions with studio staff will be used to develop specific aspects of students' individual projects. There will be both group work and individual work involved in this 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.

Content: Topic Areas

STUDIO THEME: URBAN FUTURES MELBOURNE
Urban Futures Melbourne will investigate issues of urban densification and identity within the context of a sample of rapidly changing inner-urban sites within Melbourne. The studio invites students to act as the urban 'aliens', to critically re-evaluate urban value and the potential of urban densification within established urban environments, responding to existing urban conditions and relationships in a unique way. Set across three sites within established Melbourne inner-urban suburbs, Urban Futures Melbourne will re-think the way we design to increase density

whilst addressing a context's cultural heritage. Increased urban density is commonly presented as a panacea for the pressing issues of population growth and straining infrastructure within Melbourne and Australian cities generally. While many of the public support the notion of increased density generally, the notion of having it in My Back Yard is decidedly less attractive – leading to numerous hard fought battles between citizen action groups and the proponents of development. The studio will critically reassess the debate surrounding densification within Melbourne's inner urban areas; can we re-think our cities to increase density whilst keeping their cultural identity? This studio proposes to re-imagine some of Melbourne's archetypal neighborhoods framework while reflecting on what is urban culture and how can it be incorporated in architecture.

Urban Futures Melbourne will encourage students to critically reflect on questions of urban densification versus urban identity and to translate these reflections and ideas into architecture. Enabling students to critically engage with the positive and negative aspects of the city and design to enhance or weaken these features, while introducing and engaging students with generative design techniques as applied to the urban scale as a methodology for developing or retaining urban character.

PROJECT PHASES
The studio will be organized in four stages:
1. Data collection, site evaluation and investigation (week 1)
2. Concept and general massing investigations (week 2)
3. Design development (individual work weeks 3-6)
4. Individual documentation of research

ONE: URBAN VALUE
Melbourne as a whole is experiencing rapid population growth, with the city's inner urban areas undergoing rapid transformation as gentrification and population pressures dramatically changes the urban and social make-up of these suburbs. Arguably the first step in preforming any evaluation of urban value is to catalogue existing conditions; In this phase of Urban Futures Melbourne students are encouraged to explore their assigned sites through a broad ranges of topics, filters and investigative methodologies. These investigations are to include conventional modes of site evaluation; covering urban form, environmental conditions, etc. but also seeks to explore notions of urban value beyond the physical, to include cultural constructs and organizations. The mapping methodologies are also to extend beyond conventional techniques, via use of emerging crowd sourcing and parametric mapping techniques.

TWO: CRITICAL DENSITY
Increased urban density is commonly presented as a panacea for the pressing issues of population growth and straining infrastructure within Melbourne and Australian cities generally. While many of the public support the notion of increased density generally, the notion of having it in My Back Yard is decidedly less attractive – leading to numerous hard fought battles between citizen action groups and the proponents of development. Urban Futures Melbourne will critically reassess the debate surrounding densification within Melbourne's inner urban areas; can we re-think our cities to increase density whilst keeping their cultural identity?
This phase of Urban Futures Melbourne will focus on the evolving need for Melbourne inner urban areas to accommodate increasing population densities, while retailing the urban and social character that draws new residents to these areas. What is the maximum level of densification possible? And, what can, or should be retained in this transformation?

THREE: VALUE ADDING
The final design stage of the project Urban Futures Melbourne, draws on the research and investigations of the earlier phases, with students developing their design propositions based on feedback received and their own emerging appreciation of urban value within their specific contexts.

FOUR: DOCUMENTATION OF RESEARCH
Individually, students will document their findings through a final reflective paper containing both written and graphic material for publication.

Course Schedule
A detailed course schedule is appended to the end of this document.

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. Phase 1 of the studio is 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. Phases 2 and 3 are individual projects. Phase 4 is 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. There will be no final examination.

Phase 1: 10%
Phase 2: 25%
Phase 3: 55%
Phase 4: 10%
Total: 100%

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	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 atthe 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	

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.

Readings

A list of required readings will be provided by the studio instructors during the term.

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. 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/contact);
8. Graduate Student representative(http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/) and Student Ombudsman's Office

DETAILED STUDIO SCHEDULE

WEEK	ACTIVITY	NOTES
WEEK 1	PHASE I	
Fri. 04/01	Introduction: Laura Martires	Melbourne Urban Futures Studio Introduction & review of studio outline
	Lecture: Laura Martires	Introduction to Urban Futures workshop 2012 and Studio Phase I - Site location, group assignment
	Research Task One: Site Visit	In Groups of 3 or 4, students perform site visits and collect mapping information to be presented next class.
WEEK 2		
Tue. 08/01	Desk Reviews	Review of Site Visit and Mapping task
	Lecture: Ben Milbourne	Introduction to Crowd Sourced and Parametric mapping techniques
	Context Model	In class, students build a Site Model per site @ 1:500 scale
Fri. 11/01	Pin-up review	Presentation of collected research, mapping for each site, 5-10 minutes presentation, 3 x A0 panels
	Lecture: Ben Milbourne	Introduction to Densification Studies and Studio Phase II
	InStudio production	Students Individually initiateMassing Model studies @ 1:500 + 'Value' Diagram
WEEK 3	PHASE II	
Tue. 15/01	Desk Reviews & In-Studio production	Discuss Massing models and 'Value' diagrams
Fri. 18/01	Studio Mid-Term Review	Pin-up Critique: Reseach (Mapping, Site Plan), Densification Studies (Physical Models, Diagrams) and Selected Proposal (Diagrams, Plans, Sections, Physical Model @ 1:500)
	Phase III Introduction	Students to prepare critical self assesment and workplan for remainder of semester
WEEK 4	PHASE III	
Tue. 22/01	Desk Reviews	Review of Work plan and self assesment Masterplan & programatic development
Fri. 25/01	Desk Reviews	Massing and plan development
WEEK 5		
Tue. 29/01	Desk Reviews	Section and elevation development
Fri. 01/02	Desk Reviews	General design development
	Final Review Requirements Handout	3D representation developement
WEEK 6		
Tue. 05/02	Interim Pin-Up	Students Present a first draft of their final Proposal
Fri. 08/02	Desk Reviews	Communication review and development
WEEK 7		
Tue. 12/02	Final Reviews	Pin-Up + Review
Fri. 15/02	STUDIO EXHIBITION	