Landscape /Architecture +
Infrastructure/Urbanism

Seminar Arch. 215
Mondays 9am-12pm
Room 170 Wurster Hall

University of California
Spring 2012arch 215, Mondays room 170
https://courseweb.berkeley.edu/courseweb/login/login.jsp

René Davids

This seminar aims to explore how the physical and conceptual understanding of landscape can enrich current forms of architectural and urban design practice. We will introduce landscape and infrastructure discourses that increasingly impinge on the fields of architecture and urban design today. At the junction of landform, infrastructure, urban design and architecture lies a rich field of possibilities that is increasingly superseding the narrower field of each of the disciplines by themselves. Increasingly, landscape is emerging as a model for urbanism. While much of the urban design discourse is stuck in a quest for recapturing village life the critique of current landscape and architecture is that by themselves they do not have the tools to reform the US city that includes very large areas of horizontal non-dense development. Landscape urbanism has however been unable to produce any projects that are anything other than landscape parks. The movement is imprecise and abstracted from residential fabric and the rhythms of everyday life, but it has had an impact in shifting the conversation or at least counterbalancing neo-traditionalism, in heightening the relationship between architecture urban design infrastructure and landscape, in re-enforcing ideas of process over final product and in suggesting an architectural vocabulary that recalls natural forms. But while form and process are only one of a number of relevant aspects of the environmental design discourse today and not the most urgent, urbanity remains a key issue to provide a new perspective and allow for judgments far more germane to the problems of architecture and city-building.

The seminar will analyze some the current literature on landscape urbanism and other “urbanisms” that are currently being discussed but we do not intend to embrace adopt or promote any of the ideas contained within them but to construct our own and test some of the ideas developed from the readings and seminar sessions through the making of a temporary installation

Theory, Social and Cultural Processes
This seminar fulfills both Theory and Social and Cultural Processes in Architecture and Urbanism criteria outlined below:

· To have a basic knowledge of the concepts in person-environment relations
· To understand how these concepts vary by sub-culture and position-presenting multiple perspectives on the environment.
· To have the ability to use systematic methods needed to gain multiple perspectives, to have the ability to collect and analyze data, including but not limited to statistical, observation-mapping, behavior traces, questionnaires, participant observations, ethnographic studies, cognitive mapping, and so on.
· To develop critical thinking about the values embedded in design and the consequences for people.
· To critically understand the issues surrounding programming and post occupancy evaluations

Course Requirements
Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all course readings are in the course reader, available from Krishna Copy

Krishna Copy Center. 2111 University Ave. Readings listed below, as “additional readings” are not required. They are intended as a research resource and as a supplement to weekly reading assignments.

Weekly reading response Attendance and Participation in Discussions and of one Seminars: 50%
You are required to prepare a brief response of three critical questions to all of the assigned readings of no more than 150 words, which you may be asked to read aloud at the start of the class discussions each week. Your response should not be a summary; rather it should present critical issues/questions the reading has raised for you. You may also use it to suggest connections/conflicts with previous readings, or perhaps establish a link with work you are doing in other courses. A copy of your response must be submitted at the beginning of each class. These will form an
integral part of the final grade you receive for class participation. Attendance is mandatory. Regular, enthusiastic and informed participation in class discussions is an important part of your contribution to the class.

**Leading one or two Seminar Sessions:**
In order to lead the discussion, you will need to:

a) Prepare three questions to help focus discussion in your session, and bring them to class,
b) Prepare an opening statement, with some critical observations to begin your session. Your goal should be to create an interesting and provocative context for discussion of the questions you have identified. Your opening presentation should be analytical and critical, and assume that everyone has completed the readings.

c) You may include slides or other material to accompany discussion of your questions. You may choose to examine one of the buildings or urban spaces mentioned in the readings in more detail; you may also choose to introduce an example that is not included in the readings, but is a particularly appropriate illustration of the question being addressed.

d) You will lead a seminar, possibly one other students. You must communicate with your partners about how to divide responsibilities and how to co-ordinate the presentation of your examples.

e) Two weeks prior to your presentation you are required to meet with me briefly after class to discuss your session.

**Research/ Mapping: 50% leading to a Temporary Installation**
You are required to produce field research mapping exercises in an area of your choice (The chosen area is subject to approval by the instructor) that will inform and advance your basic knowledge of urban environments and to understand how these concepts vary by comparison in different contexts. For that end the seminar will students in group.
You will collect and analyze data, including but not limited to statistical, observation-mapping, behavior traces, questionnaires and participant observations.
In the process you will develop critical thoughts about the values embedded in the space you will be analyzing and the consequences for people and critically understand programming and the evaluation of the existing places.

**Exercise TEMPORARY**
THE SEMINAR WILL CULMINATE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY A CONSTRUCTION OF A PERFORMATIVE OR GATHERING SPACE BUILT AT THE END OF THE TERM ON CAMPUS
TEMPORARY is not an art installation, a formal statement, a digital construct( although it can use the technology) but a place for more than two people to gather, and perform some activity.

Choose site (on campus). Set a framework for your mapping exercises and present a photographic and historical survey of the site. The site need to be chosen so that it complies at least two of the 3 following factors: Landscape, Campus Gathering Area, Campus Infrastructure

You are required to produce a sketch design at the end of term in response to the analytical field research you will be conducting throughout the term. For research please check Groat, Linda and Wang, David Architectural Research Methods NA2000 .G76 2002

**Exercises to generate TEMPORARY**

**LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**GRADING**

Leading One or Two Seminar Sessions 20%
Brief response to all of the assigned readings 10%
Participation in the discussion 35%
Research/Design 35%
Notes on Readings:
1) Unless otherwise noted, all books are on reserve in the Environmental Design Library, 210 Wurster Hall.
2) Reserve listings and call numbers are available through GLADIS (telnet://gladis.berkeley.edu/) Type: f in davids, rene
3) If you are having trouble locating an online journal, go to Find e_Journals or check Pathfinder
4) Chapters and essays from books are listed under the TITLE of the BOOK, not the title of the essay.

Seminar 1: Introduction
January Monday 23
Form groups for “temporary installation” and Presentation

Seminar 2: Urban Landscape/Urbanism
January, Monday 30

Exercise TEMPORARY
The seminar will culminate with the construction of temporary a construction of a performative or gathering space built at the end of the term on campus.
TEMPORARY is not an art installation, a formal statement, a digital construct (although it can use the technology) but a place for more than two people to gather, and perform some activity.

Choose site (on campus). Set a framework for your mapping exercises and present a photographic and historical survey of the site. The site need to be chosen so that it complies at least two of the 3 following factors: Landscape, Campus Gathering Area, Campus Infrastructure

Reading:
Mehaffy, Michael Landscape Urbanism: Sprawl in a Pretty Green Dress in Planetizen Oct 4, 2010
http://www.planetizen.com/node/46262

(jrl) Duany, Andres. Duany vs Harvard GSD in Metropolis Nov 3 2010
http://www.metropolismag.com/pov/20101103/duany-vs-harvard-gsd


Richarson, Tim. Introducing “Landscape Urbanism”: whatever it is it is coming your way” in Garden Design Journal


Seminar 3: Landscape as Architecture Form and Urbanism
February Monday 6

Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce abstract a regional city and campus map high-lightening the most important relationships and connection the your chosen analysis site makes to the transportation network, pedestrian walks, bus routes bycycles lanes and movement, sewers lines and any other urban infrastructural systems of interest to you.

Reading:

Frampton Kenneth Megaform As Urban Landscape in Landform Building Lars Mueller Publisher 2011

Allen, Stan. ”The Megaform Revisited” in Landform Building Lars Mueller Publisher, 2011
Reference


Seminar 4: Urban Sites
February Monday 13
Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce a performative map(s) (zoning of activities) Analyze the activities that occur on your chosen site by observing the area at different times of the day during different days. Map the activities separately

Reading
Env Design NA2540.5 .B86 2005

EnvDesign SB472.7 .L36 2006

Reference
EnvDesign NA2540.5 .B86 2005

Seminar 5: Public Space
February Monday 20

Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce Sketch proposal. The idea HAS TO BE presented digitally and in model form and is meant to activate your imagination as well as re-enforcing m the idea that the analysis can be both an exploration of the existing conditions and generative of design ideas.

Reading:
Envirn Design HT151.C654 2000


Reference

Seminar 6: The Contemporary City
February Monday 27

Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce a map of senses (smell, sound, views, touch) Analyze these phenomena on your chosen site by observing the area at different times of the day during different days. Map the activities separately. Produce a weather map based on data and tangible results on the ground such as the effects of sun, rain, dew, wind. Analyze the effect of weather on your chosen site by observing the area at different times of the day during different days. Map the phenomena separately.
Reading:


Seminar 7: Sub-Urban Landscapes
March Monday 5

Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce a time activity map (daily) (weekly) Analyze the effect of time on your chosen site by observing the area at different times of the day and exploring through record and photographs how the place has changed through history

Reading:
Durack Ruth Village Vices: The Contradiction of New Urbanism and Sustainability in The Design Observer Group 11/01,01


(jr)Harvey, David “New Urbanism and the Communitarian Trap” in Harvard Design Magazine (Winter /Spring 1997 Number 1) 1-3 ( available online) http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/research/publications/hdm/back/index.html


Reference

Seminar 8: Socially Challenged Landscapes
March Monday 12

Exercise TEMPORARY
Present places/ environments around the world (case studies) that are designed in similar area to the one you have chosen, present comparable conditions and or are of interest to you by contrast IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SECOND Design proposition.

Reading:

Teddy Cruz in conversation with Caleb Waldorf “Learning from Tijuana” in Canopy http://canopycanopycanopy.com/pieces/legacy_piece/111

Reference:

Seminar 9: Programming Urban Landscapes
March Monday 19

Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce a Narrative map. Annotate events you have witnessed, interviews you have conducted
In order to establish a questionnaire or conduct you interviews orally consult Groat, Linda and Wang , David

Reading:


Friday March 25 Spring Break

Seminar 10: Memory and Urban Landscape
April , Monday 2
Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce an ergonomic storyboard study of the body performing activities that take place on your site. You may also do this with activities you might want to encourage on your chosen area but that are not yet present on it.

Reading:


Reference

Seminar 11: ‘Sustainability ,Biodiversity, and Natural Processes in the City’
April Monday 09

Exercise TEMPORARY
Choose material. Produce Construction drawings, in sketch form, 1: 1 model of parts
Reading:


Treib, Marc. “ Dark Clouds in the Horizon” in Richardson, Tim Futurescapes Thames and Hudson, 2011

Reference:
Seminar 12: Landscapes of Exchange
April Monday 16
Exercise TEMPORARY
Second set of Construction drawings

Reading:


Reference:


Seminar 13: Landscape, Architecture /Infrastructure
April Monday 23
Exercise TEMPORARY
Produce a written essay (min one page up to two pages). Contrast your chosen space with other conventional spaces. Compare with historical precedents. Third set of construction drawings, 1:1 model of parts

Reading:

Belanger, Pierre. Redefining Infrastructure in Landform Building Lars Mueller Publisher, 2011

Reference:


Seminar 14: Cities Urban Design and Landscape  
April Monday 30

Exercise: TEMPORARY  
Fourth set of construction drawings, 1:1 model of parts

Reading:


Seminar 15: Review Week  
Friday May 06 Reading review Week / No new Reading  
Pre- Final Presentation of your proposal construction schedule/setting up process

Seminar 15: Conclusion  
May Monday 14

Final Review of TEMPORARY