I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course discusses architectural and planning design as human shelter, the utility of urban space for the state and society, the cultural construction of urban form, the traditional and modern concepts, the expression and interpretation of the urban built environment in Asia.

Urban form is the interface between urban planning, architecture and cultural studies. In planning, it is regarded as the physical organization of cities. In architecture, it is considered as a spatial articulation of built environment. In cultural studies, it is viewed as incremental historical icons. The functions of urban form are fourfold: functionally, (a) built environment for humans as the counter part of natural environment, (b) production of utility spaces for social activities; and esthetically, (c) built artifacts for cultural maintenance and evolution, (d) place and form as a symbolic and political/artistic expression. This course addresses these specific aspects of urban form theoretically and empirically.

The geographic and cultural emphasis of the course is placed in Asia. Historically determined, Asian urban form is the product of local culture. Globally influenced, Asian cities are the recipients of western (European/American) conceptualization and practice of built environment. The contemporary urban form in Asia is an evolution of cross-cultural events of global and local convergence, dualist encounters between tradition and modernity - both complementary and contradictory. The local cultural interpretation and utility of space, and the imported ideas and methods of spatial organization interact and produce unique urban mosaics and patterns of built form. This course introduces the historical traditions of urban form production in contrast with the arrival of the European/American conventions, and the resultant variations of specific regional responses and adaptations in Asia.

I. OBJECTIVES

1. Students can demonstrate an understanding of the origin and development of Asian urban forms.
   i. Be able to recognize key determinants of urban form: ecology, state/society, and culture.
   ii. Demonstrate a familiarity of the major traditional built forms in their cultural context.
   iii. Be able to understand the impacts of the western influence on modern Asian urban forms.
2. Students can demonstrate the ability to study and analyze urban forms in Asia.
   i. Recognize the interrelationship of economic, political, historical and cultural context of urban form.
   ii. Be able to develop a critical understanding on the evolution of urban form.
3. Students can develop an in-depth understanding of how Asian urban forms are utilized.
   i. Demonstrate the ability to interpret the concepts of urban form formation.
   ii. Be aware of how urban forms are interpreted by the state and society.
   iii. Be able to analyze the state-society contest of ownership of urban forms.
ii. LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Gain an informed understanding of the discourse and issues on Asian urban forms.
2. Discern and compare the different ideological views and positions on urban form in Asia.
3. Analyze the cultural, political and social influences on the evolution of an urban form.
4. Apply the knowledge learnt for urban form policy formation.

iii. ORGANIZATION

1. The course has 4 parts, and covers 10 topics.
2. The pre-requisite for this course is one or more courses from - ASAN 310, ASAN 312, ARCH 575, PLAN 646; or consent.
   Students are expected to have some fundamental understanding of architecture, or art history.
3. As befits a postgraduate course, the emphasis will be on participation: students are encouraged to read widely, critically assess the relevant literature, and contribute in seminar discussion. The grading in course work of the overall assessment will reflect these considerations.

iii REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

1. A Reading report 20%
   (see Section III)
   a. oral presentation 10%
   b. reading report 10%
2. An urban form case study review 60%
   (see Section IV)
   a. proposal 10%
   b. report 50%
3. An Final essay examination (take-home) 20%
   (see Section V)

Attendance Policy: Students are responsible to attend all classes, unless they are seriously ill. Absence limits participation, and is disrespectful to classmates who make presentations. Attendance will be taken in every session. Late arrival of 20 minutes or more will be counted as absence. Absence will be counted negatively in the final grade. Downgrading starts after absence of two sessions without previous approval. First absence after the allowance incurs a deduction of 5% of total grade. Additional absence will further downgrade at 5% increment.
II. COURSE TOPICS

Introduction and Overview

i. ECOLOGICAL & POLITICAL BASIS

1. Climate & Built Environment
2. Civil Society & National State

ii. ASIAN HISTORICAL URBAN FORMS

3. Fengshui: Geomancy
4. Architectural Traditions:
   a. China
   b. Japan
   c. Southeast Asia
5. Religious Built Forms:
   a. Hinduism
   b. Buddhism - East Asia
   c. Buddhism - Southeast Asia
   d. Islamism
6. Garden Landscaping:
   a. China
   b. Japan

iii. CONTEMPORARY WESTERN IMPORTATION

7. Contemporary Urban Design Principles
8. Industrial & Global Cityscape
9. Conservation & Preservation

iv. GLOBAL VERNACULAR CONVERGENCE

10. Morphological Evolution of Asian Urban Form
III. GUIDELINES FOR READING REPORT

i. TOPIC SELECTION

1. Select one of the course topics between 3 & 9 for reading review.

2. Sign up for the course topic on ‘first come first served’ basis by the end of Week 3.

ii. PREPARATION

1. The reading review includes all readings marked with an * in the selected topic. After topic selection, proceed to review the readings.

2. Based on the readings, the review should be a summary report, with a comparative analysis of the readings, and an exposition of new or emerging subject(s) or issue(s).

iii. PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION

1. The review paper should include:
   a. a summary and synthesis of the readings: the theme, the focus and the context of each reading,
   b. a critical analysis: how the readings inform the reader about the topic, and how they are related to each other,
   c. further research questions: identify a set of issues and questions raised by the readings.

2. Oral presentation and discussion
   a. prepare and distribute a brief outline of the reading review for distribution,
   b. an oral presentation at session of the same topic (30 minutes),
   c. raise a set of questions for discussion,
   d. lead and conduct a seminar discussion (30 minutes).

3. Submit the written review at the oral presentation.
   The review paper should be typed, double spaced, and approximately 1,000 words (4 pages).

IV. GUIDELINE FOR THE URBAN FORM CASE STUDY REVIEW

i. PROJECT

1. Students choose a contemporary or historical urban form in Asia for a case study review.

2. In special circumstances and when the research study justifies, students may work in a group of two. Prior approval from the instructor is required.

ii. PREPARATION

1. Purposes:
   a. to utilize course material as a conceptual framework for investigating an urban form
   b. to investigate the process of producing an urban form
   c. to understand the context, purpose, symbolism and function of an urban form
   d. to analyze an urban form in relationship to its historical evolution (cultural, political, social, economic background).
2. **Process:**
   a. select an urban form or an urban design project (a major building, a group of buildings, a square, a park, a stadium, a housing project, a memorial, a group of public sculpture, a major highway, etc.)
   b. review library collection and journals on architecture, garden, city, urban form, built environment, historical preservation, conservation, urban planning, etc.
   c. collect visual, graphic, descriptive and analytic material through literature review, and select relevant theories as the basis for the analysis of the project,
   d. propose a case study review outline,
   e. organize and structure material for written report

3. The Case Study Review should address the following points:
   a. the objectives of the urban form - for the state and the society  
      -- the original objectives
      -- the interpretative change of objectives through history - for the state
      -- the change in collective memory through history - for the society
   b. the historical evolution of spatial symbolism and functions
      -- for the state
      -- for the society
   c. summary of the contrasting original purpose of the urban form. The most drastic change of its symbolism and functions.

**iv. REVIEW TOPICS**

These are some selected general types for urban form case study topics:

1. An urban design project.
   e.g. Chinatown reconstruction in Singapore

2. A specific type of urban form
   e.g. Harbor reclamation in Hong Kong

3. A specific historical urban form
   e.g. Shop house development in Vietnam

4. An urban global infrastructure
   e.g. International airport: Kansai in Osaka

5. A global urban form category
   e.g. Convention centers in Asian metropolises

6. An urban construction
   e.g. Earth housing in northern China

7. A transferred urban form
   e.g. Japanese residential block as Taipei urban spatial unit

8. State and society contention in an urban form
   e.g. Utility and control of Tiananmen Square, Beijing

9. Theoretical discussion of an urban form
   e.g. Colonial city center development in Indonesia
iv. REVIEW SUBMISSION

1. Before working on a review proposal, you should discuss with the instructor your ideas as early as possible.

2. Submit a review proposal (2 pages) at Week 7.
   The proposal should demonstrate a realistic and doable project, and it should provide:
   a. a carefully thought out topic
   b. a clear direction for investigation
   c. evidence that the proposed study can be done
   The proposal should include:
   a. a researchable title
      -- indicating the area and parameter of the study
   b. study objectives, investigation theme or theoretical hypothesis
      -- the context of the study
      -- the intended discovery
      -- the likely conclusion
   c. a set of review questions
      -- rationally constructed sub-topics
      -- a logic and sequence of investigation, analysis and evaluation
   d. a selected bibliography
      -- available information
      -- sufficient material to make the study possible

3. Submit review at Week 16.
   The review should include:
   a. theme or hypothesis, research objective, organization and structural sequence of the study
   b. a literature and theoretical review
   c. factual or theoretical investigation and analysis
   d. synthesis: explanation, evaluation and comment; and the relevance the theories and the literature

   The review should be typed, double spaced and should be approximately 3,000 words (12 pages - not including maps, figures, tables and references). Text should be substantiated by footnotes, and a selected reference list should be included. Late submission incurs a grade deduction.
   If a student wishes to revise the Reading Review Paper, the paper must be submitted no later than Week 13, allowing sufficient time for comments and revision. Papers submitted after that week cannot be revised and will receive comments and final grade only.

V. FINAL EXAMINATION

Purposes of examination:
   a) to analyze and explain urban form issues,
   b) to examine critically the course material.

The examination is a take-home exercise and consists of short discussion essays. The emphases are on writing efficiency and effectiveness - precise argument with an in-depth analysis, and succinct expression with a clear organization. The Final Examination is distributed in the Last Week, and to be submitted within two days.
V. READING LIST
* Required Reading

This course is based on a variety of literature, and there is no standard reference text.

Students have a free access to the Course Reader files (Required Readings only):
1. Log into Laulima system <laulima.hawaii.edu> or click the Laulima icon on MyUH <myuh.hawaii.edu>.
2. Click on the tab, labeled 'ASAN-636-001 [MAN.86504.SP10]' or 'PLAN-636-001 [MAN.86099.SP10]', corresponding to the course number you have registered.
3. Click on 'Resources' (listed on the left side) and the files are organized by topics, as in this Course Outline.
4. A copyright message appears when you click on a file. Click 'I agree' to open it.

1. CLIMATE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT


2. CIVIL SOCIETY & NATIONAL STATE


3. FENGSHUI: GEOMANCY


4. ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS: CHINA, JAPAN, SOUTHEAST ASIA

a. CHINA


b. JAPAN


c. SOUTHEAST ASIA


5. RELIGIOUS BUILT FORMS: BUDDHIST, SHINTO, ISLAMIC

a. HINDUISM


b. BUDDHISM - East Asia


c. BUDDHISM - Southeast Asia


Ringis, Rita (1990), Thai Temples and Temple Murals, New York: Oxford University Presss. pp. 3-83.

d. ISLAMISM


6. GARDEN LANDSCAPING: CHINA, JAPAN

a. CHINA


b. JAPAN


7. CONTEMPORARY URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES


8. INDUSTRIAL & GLOBAL CITYSCAPE


9. CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION


10. MORPHOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF ASIAN URBAN FORM

* Douglass, Mike and Won Bae Kim (1997), 'Culture and Urban Future in East Asia', Kim, Douglass, Choe and Ho, Culture and the City in East Asia. pp. 234-253.


### TIMETABLE

Tuesdays 1:30 - 4:15 pm

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction &amp; Overview</th>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>1. Climate &amp; Built Environment</td>
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| Week 3 | 2. Civil Society & National State  
Reading Report topic sign-up | Fri. Jan. 28 |
| Week 4 | 3. Fengshui: Geomancy.  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 5 | 4.a. Architectural Traditions: China  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 6 | 4.b. Architectural Traditions: Japan  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 7 | 4.c. Architectural Traditions: Southeast Asia  
Presentation/Seminar | Tue. Feb. 22 |
| Week 8 | 5.a. Religious Built Forms: Hinduism  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 9 | 5.b. Religious Built Forms: Buddhism - East Asia  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 10 | 5.c. Religious Built Forms: Buddhism - Southeast Asia  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 11 | SPRING RECESS |
| Week 12 | 5.d. Religious Built Forms: Islamism  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 13 | 6.a. Garden Landscaping: China  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 14 | 6.b. Garden Landscaping: Japan  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 15 | 7. Contemporary Urban Design Principles  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Week 16 | 8. Industrial & Global Cityscape  
Case Study Paper Due | Tue. Apr. 26 |
| Week 17 | 9. Conservation & Preservation  
Presentation/Seminar |
| Final Examination distribution | Tue. May 3 |
| Final Examination submission | Thur. May 5 |