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. To explore the general determinants of urban form: ecology, state/society, and culture.
2. To review the major Asian traditional built forms in their cultural context.
3. To examine the current factors that influence urban form and their evolution.
4. To study and analyze urban forms in Asia.

ii. ORGANIZATION

1. The course has 4 parts, and covers 11 topics.

2. Students are expected, though not required, to have a basic knowledge of architecture or urban planning, or have taken PLAN 310 or PLAN 600, or equivalent.

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 lecture and review discussions. The grading in the course work of the overall assessment will reflect these considerations.
iii REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

1. An mid-term essay examination (take-home) 25%
   (see Section III)

2. An urban form case study review 75%
   (see Section IV)
   a. proposal 10%
   b. report 65%

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. Architectural Traditions: China, Japan, Southeast Asia
4. Religious Built Forms: Buddhist, Shinto, Islamic
5. Geomancy: Fengshui
6. Garden Landscaping: China, Japan

iii. CONTEMPORARY WESTERN IMPORTATION

7. Contemporary Urban Design Principles
8. Industrialized & Globalized Cityscape
9. Conservation & Preservation

iv. GLOBAL VERNACULAR CONVERGENCE

10. Morphology of Asian Urban Space: Beijing, Tokyo
11. Evolution of Asian Urban Form
III. MID-TERM & FINAL EXAMINATION

Purposes of examinations:
   a) to analyze and explain urban form issues by utilizing selective course material,
   b) to debate and explain with student's own analysis based on course material.

The examinations are take-home short discussion essays. They emphasize on writing efficiency and effectiveness - to construct a precise argument with an in-depth analysis and write succinctly with a clear organization. The mid-term examination is distributed in Week 8, and to be submitted by Week 9.

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 purpose / meaning and function / usage of an urban form
      d. to analyze an urban form in relationship to its context (cultural, political, social, economical background) and relevant theories.

   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. Based on readings, select the relevant theoretic basis to guide your investigation. For the case study, explore the intention and functions of the urban form, the historical background and the purpose for the project, the communities it serves, the design process and the actors involved in its realization and/or the actual effects on the society and the state. Conclude with your comments of the urban form project.

   4. 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 history of spatial functions and usages
-- for the state
-- for the society
c. summary of the contrasting identity of the urban form - by the state and society

iv. REVIEW TOPICS

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

1. A contemporary or historical urban design project.
   e.g. Chinatown reconstruction in Singapore

2. A historical evolution of a city or a specific type of urban form
   e.g. Harbor reclamation for Hong Kong’s business and commercial development

3. Study of one specific historical urban form
   e.g. Origin of Shop houses in Vietnam

4. Analysis of a specific contemporary urban form
   e.g. International airport: Kansai in Osaka

5. Contention in an urban form by the national state and civil society
   e.g. Utility and control of Tiananmen Square, Beijing

6. Political economic context of an urban form category
   e.g. Convention centers in Asian metropolises under Globalization

7. Theoretical discussion of an urban form
   e.g. Colonial city center development in Indonesia

8. Analysis of a transferred urban form
   e.g. Japanese residential block as an urban spatial unit for Taipei

9. Discussion of an urban form element
   e.g. Earth housing in northern China

iv. REPORT SUBMISSION

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

2. Submit a paper 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. a study objective, 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 research paper at **Week 16**.
   The paper 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 paper should be typed, double spaced and should be no more than 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.
V. READING LIST

* Required Reading

This course is based on a variety of sources, and there is no standard reference texts. Copies of a Course Reader, including the Required Readings only, are kept on reserve in Social Sciences 119 (Document Center, Department of Urban & Regional Planning).

1. CLIMATE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT


2. CIVIL SOCIETY & NATIONAL STATE


3. ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS: CHINA, JAPAN, SOUTHEAST ASIA


4. RELIGIOUS BUILT FORMS: BUDDHIST, SHINTO, ISLAMIC


5. GEOMANCY: FENGSHUI


6. GARDEN LANDSCAPING: CHINA, JAPAN


7. CONTEMPORARY URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES


8. INDUSTRIALIZED & GLOBALIZED CITIESCAPE


9. CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION


10. MORPHOLOGY OF ASIAN URBAN SPACE: BEIJING, TOKYO, HONG KONG, SINGAPORE

* Ho, Kong Chong (1997), 'Singapore: From a Port City to City State: Forces Shaping Singapore’s Built Environment', in Won Bae Kim, Mike Douglass, Sang-Chuel Choe and Kong Chong Ho (eds), Culture and the City in East Asia. Oxford: Claredon Press. Ch. 11.


11. EVOLUTION OF ASIAN URBAN FORM

* Douglass, Mike and Won Bae Kim (1997), 'Culture and Urban Future in East Asia', in Won Bae Kim, Mike Douglass, Sang-Chuel Choe and Kong Chong Ho (eds), Culture and the City in East Asia. Oxford: Claredon Press. Ch. 12.


**TIMETABLE**

Tuesdays 1:30 - 4:15 pm

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<td>1. Climate &amp; Built Environment</td>
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<td>2. Civil Society &amp; National State</td>
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* Case Study Paper Due Fri. Apr. 28, 2009.