

FALL 2009
MIT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
4.252J/11.301J: URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Tu-Th 10:30-12:00; Room: W31-310 (CRE Lecture Hall)
Prof. Dennis Frenchman (Office: 10-485: 253-8847; dennisf@mit.edu)
Instructor: Amit Prothi (Office: TBA,; prothi@mit.edu)
Office Hours: DF (Tu 12-1:30), AP (TBA)
TA: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This subject introduces graduate students to ideas about the form of cities and how they are designed and developed. The subject is organized into two parts:

Part 1 explores the **Forces** which act to shape and to change cities. Starting with Boston and the American city as a reference, we will examine key forces affecting contemporary urban development including: The market, social forces, public development, regulation of private development, and incentives to encourage good design. Finally we will consider how cities define a vision for their future and how these are articulated in plans and proposals. Lectures will be supplemented by guest presentations, case studies and field trips.

Part 2 surveys **Models** of urban design which have been invented in response to forces acting on cities. We will discuss the evolution of each model and its current impact on design and development in cities worldwide, located in Great Britain, Italy, China, and elsewhere. Included are notions about the Traditional City, the City as a Work of Art, the Efficient City, the Garden City, the Secure City, the Information City, and the Virtual City. The application of each model will be illustrated in case studies and guest presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Work for the class will include readings, class participation, and two papers, related to the two units of the course. Students will also be required to keep a simple journal reflecting on the readings. Approximately 75% of your grade will be based upon the two papers and journal and 25% on participation in class, sections, and field trips. Readings provide a context for class lectures and are also intended to expose students to the ideas of key urban design theorists on the topics presented. Please complete all required readings in advance of each class. Readings are available on Stellar at:

<http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/4/fa08/4.252J/index.html>

Stellar is MIT's web-based platform that contains all relevant information for the course, which can be downloaded. You need a MIT web certificate installed on your computer (see <http://web.mit.edu/is/topics/certificates/index.html> for info). See the TA if you have any problems.

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SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

1. **Thurs.** **INTRODUCTION.** Can cities be designed? Course structure and objectives.
Sept. 10
- Thomas Schurch. "Reconsidering Urban Design: Thoughts about its Definition and Status as a Field or Profession." *Journal of Urban Design* (Vol. 4, No 1, 1999). pp. 5-28.
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PART 1: FORCES AFFECTING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2. **Tues.** **VIEWPOINTS ON THE CITY.** How are cities understood? City themes
Sept. 15 and city culture. Representations of cities as examples of viewpoints. The idea of
imaging a city from the viewpoint of its inhabitants: Kevin Lynch. Lowell, MA as an
example in changing the viewpoint on a city.

Grady Clay. "Introduction, Word Game, Fixes," *Close Up* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980). pp. 11-37.

J. B. Jackson. "The Strangers Path," *Landscapes* (Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 1952). pp. 92-106.

Kevin Lynch. "City Image and Its Elements," *Image of the City* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960). pp. 46-90.

Exercise 1 Distributed

3. **Thurs.** **THE FORCES THAT MADE BOSTON.** How does a city grow? The city
Sept. 17 viewed in time as a process of cultural evolution. The recursive nature of form.
How underlying forces are given form through design. Boston as an example of
forces acting on the city and models of design applied to resolve them.

Walter Muir Whitehill. *Boston: A Topographical History* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1975). General reference for Exercise 1.

Nancy Seasholes. *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003). General reference for Exercise 1.

Kevin Lynch. "Form Values in Urban History," *A Theory of Good City Form* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984). pp. 5-36

4. **Sat. Sept. 19** **WALKING TOUR OF BOSTON.** 9:45AM - 1:30 PM. Meet at the Prudential Center Observatory lobby (ground floor). We will conclude the tour in the North End where you can have lunch.
5. **Tues. Sept. 22** **THE MARKET.** The City viewed as a business. Land use, land value and urban development. Understanding how uses are located: the bid rent curve; cities as central places. Functional patterns of market and form: concentric zones, sectors, nodes. Evolution of the patterns -- from the walkable city to edge city.

Richard Morrill. "The Urban System and Urban Structure," *The Spatial Organization of Society* (North Scituate, MA: Duxbury Press, 1974). pp. 155-174.

John Logan and Harvey Molotch. "The City as a Growth Machine," *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1987). pp.50-98

6. **Thurs. Sept. 24** **CASE STUDY: BOSTON'S WEST END.** The power of a place
Guest: James Campano, Editor, *The West Ender*.

Herbert Gans. "The West End: An Urban Village" and "Redevelopment of the West End," *The Urban Villagers* (New York: London Free Press, 1982). pp. 3-41, 281-304.

Philip Langdon. "Eminent Domain Goes to Court," *Planning*, April 2005. pp.1-4.

Supreme Court of the United States. *Kelo v. City of New London* Case Syllabus, June 2005. pp. 1-2.

The West Ender (newspaper of former residents; distributed in Class)

Identify Place for Exercise 1.

7. **Tues. Sept. 29** **SOCIAL FORCES.** The city from the viewpoint of those who live there. The dynamics of neighborhoods, class association and form. People and places: Dudley Street Initiative, Roxbury.

Jane Jacobs. "The Uses of City Neighborhoods," *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. pp. 112-140.

Holly Sklar. "Creating a Sustainable Urban Village: The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative" and "Real Insurance," *Orion*, Vol 15, no 4, Autumn, 1996. pp. 28-38.

8. **Thurs.** **THE PUBLIC WILL.** The city viewed by those in power. Public development and its arenas: Infrastructure, redevelopment and housing. How is public development financed and carried out? City form as a political response to problems: from Haussmann to Robert Moses and Nelson Rockefeller.
Oct. 1

Anthony Sutcliffe. "Grand Design," *The Autumn of Central Paris* (London: Edward Arnold, 1970). pp. 11-42.

Robert Caro. "The Warp On the Loom," *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* (New York: Knopf, 1974). pp. 615-636.

9. **Thurs.** **THE PUBLIC WISH.** Balancing the public viewpoint and private rights. Regulation of private development: Zoning and incentives to influence what the market would otherwise provide. Evolution of land use control efforts to shape the "good" city; protect scarce resources. Zoning and the form of New York City, from Hugh Ferriss to Rudolph Giuliani.
Oct 1
5-6:30
or arr.
with
class

Jonathan Barnett. "Designing Cities Without Designing Buildings," *An Introduction to Urban Design* (New York: Harper and Row, 1982). pp. 57-97.

Jerold S. Kayden. "Record", *Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2001), pp. 43-59.

Herbert Muschamp. "Reaching for Power Over Streets and Sky". *New York Times*, May 28, 2000, p. 1.

10. **Thurs.** **CASE STUDY: SHAPING PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT / THE CASE OF SMART GROWTH.** Guest: Professor Terry Szold. Principal, Community Planning Solutions. *Note: class will be held in 10-485.*
Oct. 8

Terry S. Szold. "The Local Arena – Changing Regulations and Standards to Address Sprawl" (Greenwood Press, 2004). Draft: Not for citation or reproduction without permission.

11. **Sat** **WALKING TOUR OF PROVIDENCE / WATERFIRE.** Leave Boston 2:30 PM; Return 9 PM. Guests: Barnaby Evans, creator/producer of WaterFire.
Oct. 10

Dennis Frenchman, "Event Places in North America: City Meaning and Making" *Places*. Vol. 16, No. 3, Fall 2004. pp. 36-49.

12. **Wed.** **DISCUSSION SESSION (in sections).** Discussion will focus on the readings. Please submit a journal (any length) reflecting on the readings thus far in the course to prothi@mit.edu by 9am. Questions to consider: Can you design places without designing buildings? Which tools of urban design have shaped the place you are examining for the first assignment? *Meet at 6:00 PM, Rm. 10-485.*
Oct 14.

- 13. Thurs.** **THE CITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP.** The entrepreneur's view. Mixing
Oct. 15 public and private interests. Revitalizing downtowns with new incentives, formulas
for development, and types of projects. Mixed use: from the festival marketplace to
urban waterfronts.

Bernard Frieden and Lynne Sagalyn. "Entrepreneurial Cities and Maverick
Developers, Deal Making, Getting and Spending," *Downtown, Inc.* (Cambridge:
MIT Press, 1990), pp. 107-154.

John Punter. *The Vancouver Achievement.* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003)

- 14. Tues.** **FIELD VISIT: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.** Meet at
Oct. 20 BRA offices, top floor Boston City Hall, Model Room. 10:45-11:45AM.

Readings for next two sessions.

Robert Campbell. "After the Big Dig, the Big Question: Where's the Vision?"
Boston Globe, May 26, 2002;

"Beyond the Big Dig National Panel Recommendations" *Boston Globe*, May 30,
2002.

Robert Campbell. "A Walk in Progress", *Boston Globe*, Dec. 2, 2007.

- 15. Thurs.** **VISIONS.** The city as viewed from the future. Types of plans and plan-makers.
Oct. 22 The planning process. The role of urban design projections in shaping city form
and function: Who are the visionaries and where do their ideas come from? New
themes and visions for Boston.

- 16. Tues.** **DISCUSSION OF EXERCISE 1**
Oct. 27 **Exercise 1 due in class.**

PART 2: MODELS OF URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 17. Thurs.** **THE TRADITIONAL CITY.** The confluence of culture, geography, and
Oct. 29 form. The line and the grid as traditional models: Colonial towns in New England
and Georgia. The new traditionalism: Poundbury, G.B.

John W. Reps. "New Towns in New England" and "Carolina and Georgia", *Town Planning in Frontier America* (Columbia: U. of Missouri Press, 1980). pp. 100-117, 162-180.

James Howard Kunstler. "Home From Nowhere", *The Atlantic Monthly* September, 1996. pp. 43-66.

Leon Krier. "Master Plan for Poundbury Development in Dorchester," *Prince Charles and the Architectural Debate, AD*, 1994. pp. 46-55.

"The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh Visit Poundbury," Press Release, Friday, March 8, 1998.

Exercise 2 Distributed

William C. Baer. "General Plan Evaluation Criteria: An Approach to Making Better Plans," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, summer, 1997; pp. 329-343.

- 18. Tues.** **Tues. CASE STUDY: TRADITION AND INVENTION IN CITY DESIGN**
Nov. 3 The case of San Diego. Guest: Adele Naude Santos, Dean, School of Architecture
and Planning

Donald Appleyard and Kevin Lynch, *Temporary Paradise: A Look at the Special Landscape of the San Diego Region* (San Diego: City Planning Department, 1974)

- 19. Thurs** **THE CITY AS A WORK OF ART.** Power, symbol and form. From Rome Sixtus
Nov. 5 V to Chicago, and the Worlds Columbian Exposition. The City Beautiful Movement
and its continuing impact.

Camillo Sitte, *City Planning According to Artistic Principles* translated by George R. Collins and Christiane Crasemann Collins, originally published in 1899 (New York: Random House, 1965): pp. 3-19, 83-111.

Jonathan Barnett. "The Monumental City," *The Elusive City* (New York, Harper and Row, 1986). pp. 5-62.

Rob Krier. "Reconstructing Devastated Spaces With Examples from the Center of Stuttgart," *Urban Space* (London: Academy Editions, 1991). pp. 89-111.

20. Tues. **CASE STUDY: THE POLITICAL ART OF CAPITAL CITIES.** Guest: Larry
Nov 10 Vale

Lawrence Vale. "Capital and Capitol," *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995). pp. 1-43.

21. Thurs. **THE CITY IN NATURE.** How do ideas of nature influence the way cities are
Nov. 12 perceived and built? How do natural processes and urban form interact? The search
for a green, sustainable city. Amit Prothi

Raymond Williams, "Ideas of Nature," in *Problems in Materialism and Culture* (Verso, 1980), pp. 67-85

Anne Whiston Spirn in Stephen M. Wheeler and Timothy Beatley, eds. "City and Nature," *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. (New York: Routledge, 2004), pp. 113-115.

Alan Berger. "Discourses for Landscape and Urbanization," *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America* (New York : Princeton Architectural Press, 2006), pp. 26-45

22. Tues. **CASE STUDY: THE END OF THE SUBURBIA?** Guest: Professor Robert
Nov. 17 Fishman, University of Michigan, historian and critic.

Robert Fishman in Lars Boelling and Thomas Sieverts, eds. "Beyond Sprawl: The New American Metropolis," *In the Middle of the Edge: From the Suburb to Sprawl to the Regional City*. (Wuppertal, Germany: Mueller and Busmann, 2004). pp. 138-161.

Stephen V. Ward, ed., "The Garden City Introduced," *The Garden City: Past, Present and Future* (London: E & FN Spon, 1992): 1-27.

Andrew O'Hehir. "Soul of the Suburb", *Salon.com*.
<http://www.salon.com/books/feature/2000/04/13/suburbs/>

24. Wed. **DISCUSSION SESSION (in sections).** Please submit a journal (any length)
Nov. 18 reflecting on the readings in the second half of the course to prothi@mit.edu by
evening 9am. Questions to consider: What planning strategies/tools could be employed to
reshape the city or the suburbs? What strategies/tools of change are involved in
the Plan you are studying? *Meet at 6:00 PM, Rm. 10-485.*

- 24. Thurs. Nov. 19** **THE EFFICIENT CITY.** The city as a machine for production. The utopian industrial city: the 1939 New York World's Fair. Impacts on urban development policy: public housing, highways, and urban renewal. The continuing tradition: urban development in Shanghai and Beijing.

Raphael Fischler, "The Metropolitan Dimension of Early Zoning: Revisiting the 1916 New York City Ordinance," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, v. 64, n.2 (Spring 1998), pp. 170-188.

Donald Bush. "The World of Tomorrow," *The Streamlined Decade* (New York: Brazillier, 1975). pp. 154-170.

Le Corbusier. "A Contemporary City", "The Working Day", *The City of To-Morrow and Its Planning* (London: Arch. Press, 1987 (1928), pp. 158-194.

- 25. Thurs. Nov. 24 evening** **CASE STUDY: GLOBALIZING CITIES.** The world-wide impact of the efficient city model and local culture vs. international design and image. Case of Beijing. Guest: Yung Ho Chang, Head, MIT Department of Architecture.

"Beijing 2008", *Architectural Record* (New York: McGraw Hill, 2008)
<http://archrecord.construction.com/features/beijing/default.asp> Peruse. See especially: Michael Myers, "The Death and Life of Old Beijing" (July, 2008).

- 26. Tues Nov. 24.** **THE SECURE CITY.** Public Safety vs. Private Safety. Impact of security on urban design. Post 9/11 influences. Cases: Ground Zero Reconstruction and National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan. Amit Prothi

Mike Davis. "Fortress L.A.," *City of Quartz* (New York: Vintage Books, 1992), pp. 221-263.

Setha Low. "Unlocking the Gated Community," *Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America* (NY: Routledge, 2003): 7-26.

Maureen Fan. "Block by Block, Access Denied," *Washington Post*, 8-22-04, 1-4.

National Capital Planning Commission, *The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* (Washington, DC: NCP, 2002). Skim.

- 27. Tues.
Dec. 1** **THE EXPERIENCE CITY.** Experience design and the involvement of information and advanced communications in form: stories as a force in urban development. From Disney World to Dubai.

David Harvey. "Time- Space Compression and the Postmodern Condition," *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Basil Blackwell, 1990). pp. 285-307.

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. *Architecture as Signs and Systems*. (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2004). pp12-40; 93-101.

Ian Parker. "The Mirage: The Architectural Insanity of Dubai," *The New Yorker*, October 17, 2005.

- 28. Thurs.
Dec. 3** **THE INTELLIGENT CITY.** Advanced technologies and their impact on the city. Guest: Professor William Mitchell, MIT Design Lab.

William J. Mitchell. *Mobility on Demand: The Future of Transportation in Cities* (Cambridge: MIT Media Lab, Smart Cities Group, 2008).

Dennis Frenchman and Francisca Rojas. "Zaragoza's Digital Mile: Place-making in a New Public Realm, *Places*, vol. 18, No. 3, Fall 2006

- 29. Tues.
Dec. 8** **DEBATING THE MODELS.** Are emerging models of urban design helping to produce a good city? Class interactive exercise.

- 30. Thurs.
Dec. 10** **THE GOOD CITY.** Reconciling ideals and the real. Discussion of models of urban design and development and their applicability in practice. Whose values should the city reflect?

Kevin Lynch. "Between Heaven and Hell," *A Theory of Good City Form* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984). pp.51-72.

Exercise 2 Due.

- 31. Thurs.
Dec. 10** **WRAP UP.** Discussion of Exercise 2.
by arr.
with class