URBAN DESIGN & HOUSING WORKSHOP

Degree in Fundamentals of Architecture and Urbanism
Universidad de Alcalá

Academic Year 2020/2021
4th Course – 2nd Semester
1. INTRODUCTION

The Urban Design & Housing Workshop is an optional subject, developed in close relation with the other workshops of the urban area, as well as with the main subjects of the urban area in the degree. This workshop addresses the relationships between the urban project and the residential project at different scales, with special emphasis on modern and contemporary cases of study. The participants in this course also gather first-hand knowledge from relevant projects in the surroundings of Madrid, through field guided visits.

The workshop will provide students with professional tools and knowledge. It will span from critical judgement, both theoretical –regarding reference lectures debated in class- and practical, over contrasted case studies used as references/examples in many contemporary proposals; and will stretch to public presentation and exposition skills, in order to improve speeches, pitches and presentations.

Class discussions will evaluate participation, personal knowledge and arguing capacities based on individual skills and study, but also the ability to listen and learn from the other. Field visits set and expand knowledge both by individual and collective experience outside the class and in close sensory contact with real life.
2. COMPETENCIES / RESPONSABILITIES / SKILLS

Common skills:
1. Learning skills: self-sufficient study ability and sustained training.
2. Change Adaptation skills: ability to face new situations with both flexibility and versatility.
3. Innovation and Creativity: ability to build up new ideas, ways and resources, and taking them into practice/ set them into action.
4. Group working, arguing and negotiation skills.
5. Organization, planning and time management skills.
6. Social, economic and environmental issues’ awareness.

Specific skills:
1. Proper knowledge of modern and contemporary urban and housing history and theory regarding sociocultural, economic and environmental backgrounds.
2. Abilities to analyse, discuss and suggest various scales urban and housing projects.

3. CONTENTS

1. From Garden city to working-class communities
2. Re-interpreting the Urban Block: From Tradition to transition.
3. Neighbourhood units, etc.
4. Mixed Developments, etc.
5. Large-Scale Estates and Cooperative Urbanism
6. Postmodern Urbanism
7. Contemporary Urbanism
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Content Segments</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Presentation and framework</td>
<td>Contents introduction, setting up students’ teams, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. From Garden city to working-class communities</td>
<td>Garden city and Utopia, Company towns, Industrial cities, Siedlungen, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Re-interpreting the Urban Block: From Tradition to Transition.</td>
<td>H.P. Berlage in Amsterdam South; “Red Vienna” and Karl Ehn, etc.</td>
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<td>3. Neighbourhood units, etc.</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Units, New Capitals, Scandinavian Satellite Neighbourhoods, etc.</td>
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<td>4. Mixed Developments, etc.</td>
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<td>5. Large-Scale Estates and Cooperative Urbanism</td>
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<td>6. Postmodern Urbanism</td>
<td>Postmodern Urbanism in Europe, New Urbanism in the USA, etc.</td>
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<td>7. Contemporary Urbanism</td>
<td>Urban Regeneration, Key Projects, Eco-districts, etc.</td>
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The workshop develops along three main lines: Readings, Theory and Practice. Every course deals with different matters and references and poses specific practices, in connection with other urban courses and workshops, but keeping the threefold framework to the extent possible.

Readings include selected texts among the discipline references, as may be found in books, articles, speeches, etc. Students dive in one of those sources every week, present their ideas and debate them in class.

Theory include a series of lectures with a dual concern. On the one hand, they address a brief historical review of the matter/discipline through its modern and contemporary aspects. On the other hand, real study cases on urban design and housing are used as references to help understand the translation from theory to real life situations.

Finally, Practice is also set on a twofold way: On one hand, a weekly public presentation over one of the suggested study cases, researching and assessing different issues, focusing specially on the territorial, typological and morphological elements, relationships and processes, from a critical standpoint. On the other hand, a design proposal, which is set to tackle one or more issues discussed during the field trips around Madrid (those coetaneous to the study cases), and that will suggest an improved hybridization.
**Methodological Strategies**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Classroom sessions</th>
<th>Student’s independent work</th>
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<td>Theoretical sessions, debating sessions, mixed practical and theoretical sessions, design proposal presentations, practical sessions, field visits and workshops.</td>
<td>Independent study, reference texts’ readings, homework, research, presentation training, proposals’ development.</td>
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<th>One to one tutoring</th>
<th>Materials and Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual assistance, tutoring and coaching.</td>
<td>Weekly lectures to debate, from reference texts out of different sources: books, articles, speeches, publications. Teaching presentations over Theory issues. Student’s presentations on case studies and proposals. Study cases’ Field trips within the local sphere.</td>
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Evaluation criteria

Attendance and participation are compulsory, but the evaluation criteria will share the workshop’s framework focus on work related to lectures, case studies including research, field and visit work, and especially the students’ design proposals.

The course’s regular progress entails an evaluation of the student. Any positive evaluation requires at least the following:
- 80% class attendance
- 100% delivery of reading assignments
- 100% delivery of case studies’ research
- 100% delivery of design proposals

Working capacity and clear expression will be specially valued, as well as ideas’ association and relationships among different scales.

Grading Criteria

Grades would be subject to the teacher’s criteria in accordance to each course, but will relate to the following aspect ratios:

- Attendance: 5%
- Turnout/participation: 5%
- Work on reading assignments/study cases: 45%
- Design proposals: 45%

Evaluation Method

Each aspect grade must be over 4/10 in order to balance out any other aspect grade. Therefore, students not getting that grade in one or more subjects, should deliver that or those assignments again on the date of the regular term test. If new assignment deliveries aren’t met or the regular term test is not passed, students may take an extraordinary test in order to pass the failed part(s). Students who do not follow the course but are willing to pass, should carry out an assignment, similar to those delivered within the course, and deliver it either on the date of the regular term test or in the extraordinary test, whatever may apply.
6. REFERENCE MATERIAL

Basic Bibliography

López de Lucio, R. Vivienda colectiva, espacio público y ciudad. Nobuko, 2013
Montaner, J. M. La arquitectura de la vivienda colectiva. Barcelona, Reverté 2015
Pérez Igualada, J. Manzanas, bloques y casas. Valencia, UPV. 2005
VVAA. Guía del Urbanismo. Madrid s.XX. Ayuntamiento de Madrid. 2004

Further Reading

Firley, E. The Urban Housing Handbook. Londrés, Wiley. 2011
French, H. Key Urban Housing of the 20th Century. Londrés, 2008
Kirschenmann, J. Vivienda y espacio público. Barcelona, G.Gili 1985
Panerai, P. Proyectar la ciudad. Madrid, Celeste 2002
Rodríguez-Tarduchy, Bisbal y Ontiveros. Forma y Ciudad. Madrid, Cinter. 2011
ANEXO PARA LA ASIGNATURA:

URBAN DESIGN & HOUSING WORKSHOP
Código: 256057

Grado en
Fundamentos de Arquitectura y Urbanismo.
Universidad de Alcalá

Curso Académico 2020/2021

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