

URBAN STRATEGIES 2

Bachelor in Architectural Studies BAS SEP-2023 US2- AS.4.M.A

Area Architecture and Design

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Category: COMPULSORY

Language: English

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Partner and founder of Murado y Elvira Arquitectos. He is a doctorate professor of Architectural Design at ETSAM (2001-) and Urban Workshop professor at IE University since 2013. He received a scholarship from the “LaCaixa” Foundation for postgraduate studies (1998) and received a Master’s degree from Columbia University in New York City (AAD, 2000). He has been a visiting professor and lecturer at various national and international universities, such as Berkeley University or NTNU in Trondheim. His projects have received awards in various national and international competitions and have been exhibited at Freshmadrid and at the 11th Venice Biennale, among others. His student residence hall in Trondheim was nominated for Norway’s National Architecture Prize and selected for the Spanish Architecture Biennial. More recently, his Baiona Public Library and Archive was nominated for the Mies Award and was finalist at the Spanish Biennale of Architecture BEAU. He engages in editorial work and criticism, which he began as editor of the architecture magazine Oeste. His doctoral thesis “Arquitectura Fantasma” (Ghost Architecture) is based on research into the cultural and technological practice of producing architectural atmospheric effects, and was published in the Poliedrica collection of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

For more professional info please refer to: www.muradoelvira.com

For more info on doctoral research please refer to: <http://oa.upm.es/33903/>

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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

After two urban design courses focused in the city, looking at local and medium scales, the last installment of this sequence of scales will focus on the territorial and the frictions originated between local and global networks of interests. To understand cities and the dynamics of human settlements, we have to understand the territories where they unfold. The processes of global urbanization and the degree of transformation of our territories, proper to the anthropocene era we are immersed right now, is higher and higher every year. There are portions of our planet already subjected to intense human transformation. Global trends affect global interests, and local governances have to adapt to world dynamics, in a delicate economic and political balance with their neighbours. This is the reason why, when thinking about the forming of human settlements, the understanding of territorial and even regional dynamics are key in the present day, and will be more so in the coming years for architects and urban planners. Urban Strategies 2 will deal with the grand scale and its dynamics as a further degree of organizational complexity, one that is beyond shape or form but that depends on networks of complex relationships.

The last decade has witnessed the spectacular collapse of economies that became too reliant on urbanization as their primary instrument of economic production. From the ghost estates of Africa, to the artificial oases of Dubai to the unoccupied new-towns scattered across western China to the abandoned infrastructures of Spain, speculative expansions of urbanized territories have proliferated in a wide range of economic, political and geographic contexts. Such paradigms are based exclusively in top-down paradigms coming from financial interests, in clear conflict with other possible ways of understanding the way human settlements should take place. Such examples will be the counter-reference for a discussion of seeking new alternatives on new forms of territorial formatting, urbanization or transformation of places, within strategic enclaves that suffer a particularly great deal of pressure.

From here, we will analyze and act upon a selected site with particular dynamics, with an ecology of its own, not only natural but also social, economical and cultural. If left to those single dominant forces, it could lead to undesirable forms of urbanism. If managed, rearranged and "cultivated" in a proper way, according to the local ecologies, new and sustainable territorial formats can be unfolded. We will work within a territory on the verge of constant change. A site that faces significant pressures to suffer radical changes and territorial developments.

The course will begin with a deep analysis of the agents and protocols involved on the site, in order to find new propensities, and to implement new compatibility and productivity relationships among all of them. This will lead to new temporal and spatial organizations.

This workshop will be like a petri dish for speculation. The kind of urban design that will be explored is called urban cultivation: the probing of opportunities within the ever-changing territorial ecosystems.

Team work, Mapping, Negotiation, Gaming and Scenario making will be the key tools for the course. Teams of students will intervene in a given urban situation, playing and manipulating it. When turned back to the territory, the possibility for transformation is set up. This modality of action is similar to 'seeding' that negotiate with needs, agents and processes, not only with urban morphology. This is the aim of the course: first to elaborate a kind of dynamic mapping of the area of study, and then to propose possible future scenarios for it.

The sessions in class will be accompanied by mini-lectures on different topics adequate to every stage of the course. Additional recommended bibliography will be provided, for the students to be able to deepen in the course's main topics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

2- OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

2.1. BASIC AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The general objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CB1: Students have demonstrated knowledge and an understanding of a given area of study, building upon the foundation of secondary education, supported by advanced texts, and including aspects that engage the latest advances in their area of study.
- CB2: Students know how to apply their knowledge professionally to their work or vocation and possess the competencies that are often demonstrated through elaboration and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.
- CB3: Students can gather and interpret relevant facts (usually within their area of study) in order to make judgments that include reflection on relevant social, scientific, and ethical topics.
- CB4: Students can transmit information, ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.
- CB5: Students have developed the necessary learning skills to continue their studies with a high degree of autonomy.
- CG6: Knowledge of the industries, organizations, regulations, and procedures needed in order to transform projects into buildings, and to integrate drawings into the planning process.
- CG7: An understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their contexts, as well as the need to relate buildings and adjacent spaces to needs and to the human scale.

2.2. SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

The specific objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CE36: Ability to categorize built and urban heritage and plan conservation efforts.
- CE40: Ability to develop functional programming for buildings and urban spaces.
- CE45: Ability to design and execute urban projects as well as those for urbanization, gardens, and landscape.
- CE46: Ability to apply urban planning regulations and ordinances.
- CE47: Ability to develop environmental and landscape studies, and environmental impact reports.
- CE55: Adequate knowledge of the relationship between cultural patterns and the social responsibilities of the architect.
- CE57: Adequate knowledge of sociology, theory, economics, and urban history.
- CE58: Adequate knowledge of the methodological foundations of urban, territorial, and metropolitan planning.

- CE59: Knowledge of civil, administrative, urbanistic, building and industry regulations relating to professional activities.
- CE62: Knowledge of the mechanisms of preparing and developing urban plans at all scales.

2.3. TRANSVERSE COMPETENCIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

The transverse objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CT2: Ability to exercise professional behavior in accordance with constitutional principles and ethical values of the respective profession.
- CT3: Manage unforeseen situations with the capacity to respond to changes within organizations.
- CT4: Use disciplinary knowledge to analyze and evaluate current situations.
- CT5: Integrate oneself into interdisciplinary and multicultural teams to achieve common goals in a context of diversity.
- CT6: Work actively at in an international context.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	4.0 %	3.0 hours
Discussions	13.33 %	10.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	6.67 %	5.0 hours
Group work	73.33 %	55.0 hours
Individual studying	2.67 %	2.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	75.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to Urban Strategies 2: "Urban Gameboards".

Site presentation. Exercise 1: Site Analysis. Data research and relevant topics, stressing agents and components and spaces of conflict.

Introduction to Exercise 2. Site mapping: Based on the analysis done in Exercise 1, and focusing on the site selected, it will be proposed the mapping of four different relevant categories in four independent maps.

Organization of teams and research topics.

Recommended bibliography included on contemporary topics on the relationship between city and territory.

Book Chapters: Koolhaas, Rem. "What Ever Happened to Urbanism?" SMLXL, 010 Publishers, Rotterdam, 1995, pp. 959-971 (CED)

Book Chapters: "Introduction". Organization Space: Landscapes, Highways and Houses in America. The MIT Press, Cambridge MA, 1999 (CED)

Article: From Object to Field. Field conditions in architecture and urbanism (AD Profile 127 (Architecture after Geometry) (Architectural Design. vol.67 no.5/6 May/June 1997 / p.24-31) (CED)

SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Site Research

SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Short lecture: "Mapping tools"

Exercise 2 Review. Mapping

Included recommended bibliography on map making.

Book Chapters: "Rethinking the power of maps", New York : The Guilford Press, 2010 (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Turnbull, David. Maps are Territories. Science is an Atlas. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1993 (See Bibliography)

Article: Siencnik, Nataša. A Mapping Practice of Everyday Life (12–2010 Piet Zwart Institute, Networked Media Users and Abusers) (CED)

SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Exercise 2 Review. Mapping

Presentation of exercise 2.1 Integrated Map

SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Seminar: Territorial scale, Cartographies and the Urbanisms of Control. Collective discussion on the topic. (Proposed readings are mandatory).

Book Chapters: "The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique and Invention". Mapping, Edited by Denis E. Cosgrove. Reaktion Books, 1999, pp. 213-252 (CED)

Book Chapters: The Terraforming (Strelka Press) (CED)

Article: Landscape as Infrastructure (Landscape Jnl. January 1, 2009 vol. 28 no. 1 79-95) (CED)

SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Review of Exercise 2. Mapping and Exercise 2.1 Integrated Map

Presentation of Exercise E2.2. Open Map

SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Review of E2.1 Integrated Map and E2.2. Open Map

SESSIONS 8 - 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Midterm Review: Thematic Maps, Integrated Map and Open Map
Presentation of Exercise 3: Scenario.

SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Seminar 3. Territorial Scenario-Making
Presentation of case studies included in the book "Geostories" by Design Earth.
Book Chapters: Geostories. Another Architecture for the Environment (See Bibliography)

SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Exercise 3 Scenarios discussion

SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Exercise 3. Scenarios discussion
Short lecture: "Tableaux de Bataille: From The Battle of Issus to Super Mario Bros".
Recommended Bibliography on Soft Urbanism.
Book Chapters: Charles Waldheim: «Weak Metropolis and the Projective Potential of an Ecological Urbanism». Ecological Urbanism. Mostafavi, Moshsen, editor, with Gareth Doherty. Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Lars Müller Publishers, c. 2010 (CED)
Book Chapters: Branzi, Andrea. «For a Post-Environmentalism: Seven Suggestions for a New Athens Charter». Ecological Urbanism Mostafavi, Moshsen, editor, with Gareth Doherty. Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Lars Müller Publishers, c. 2010 (CED)

SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Exercise 3 Scenarios and Tableaux discussion
Final review instructions

SESSIONS 14 - 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final Review

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation system requires, in order to successfully completing the course, to submit all the exercises in due time and manner.

Class participation and active involvement in the classes will be taken into account.

The evolution, responsibility and maturity of students in the approach and resolution of individual exercises will be assessed.

This course will involve the following evaluation methods:

- SE1: Attendance and Active Participation
- SE2: Submission and/or Presentation of Group Projects
- SE3: Submission and/or Presentation of Individual Projects
- SE4: Evaluation of Group Exercises

- SE5: Evaluation of Individual Exercises
- SE6: Exams

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Class Participation and Attendance	10 %		Active participation in class.
Assignments	50 %		Active participation and negotiation in group work
Seminars	10 %		Well structured reasoning and expression
Final Exam	30 %		General Approach, Execution Quality and depth of Analysis

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Attendance and participation (10%)

Assignments (50%). Students will be required to complete a series of exercises throughout the course. Each student will be required to show a good level of analysis and design capacities by using different tools and techniques, as well as an adequate capacity of visual representation.

Analysis and discussion of the readings (10%)

Final exercise (30%). This is not an independent project but the result from the work done since the beginning of the course. It will serve for general assessment of the levels reached during the workshop. The following topics will be particularly evaluated: general approach, execution quality and depth of analysis.

Second Enrollment (extraordinary):

Students at the second enrollment will be evaluated through a practical exercise (60%) and the delivery of all the assigned exercises (40%).

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE NOTES:

1. Students have access to a total of four enrollments, in two consecutive academic years
2. Students must attend at least 80% of all class sessions. Students who do not meet this minimum percentage automatically fail both first and second enrollments, and pass directly to the third enrollment.
3. Grading of students in the extraordinary enrollments will follow the following guidelines: Students that have failed the subject in first enrollment pass to the second enrollment, except those who do not meet the minimum attendance percentage, and that therefore pass directly to the third enrollment.
4. The maximum grade that a student may achieve in second enrollment is an 8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended

- Rania Ghosn. (2019). *Geostories: another architecture for the environment*. Actar. ISBN 9781945150791 (Printed)
- Denis Wood, John Fels and John Krygier. (2010). *Rethinking the power of maps*. Guilford Press. ISBN 9781593853662 (Printed)
- David Turnbull. (1993). *Maps are territories: science is an atlas: a portfolio of exhibits*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226817059 (Digital)

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

