

AR 6303/CP6834

Urban Design: Policy and Implementation

Tuesday/Thursday, noon – 1:15

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Design, and more particularly urban design, is steadily becoming a priority for cities, towns, districts, and neighborhoods. This phenomenon reflects both market demands and growing evidence of the importance of place design on health - higher quality places, places where people can mingle, safely, pleasantly, where they want to be. This course explores the interpenetrations of public design and private design - designing the public's environment of blocks, streets, parks, squares, plazas, and organizing building forms and uses to shape civic spaces that connect people to each other and the places they need to go. .

Looking forward, the emergence of a number of "disruptive" forces raise challenges and opportunities for urban design. On the physical design side, these span travel demand behavior and technologies, urban energy choices, urban food production opportunities, water management techniques, changing housing priorities and spatial responses, and industrial space design, among others. On the socio-economic side, these forces could either ameliorate or exacerbate the spatial consequences of urban development patterns that reflect a growing fracture between rich and poor and between ethnic, religious, and age groups.

The course will explore the roles that citizens, professionals, developers, and public officials play in crafting urban design policy and what it takes to get good urban design done. We will focus particularly on the latter- the rules, the tools, the techniques, and the strategies that shape policy and account for our civic environment. The goal is to introduce pre-professionals to the integration and synthesis of planning, design, and development in response to the physical and spatial needs and desires for the broad and diverse everyday public. If applied consciously and collaboratively, these tools can and should produce satisfying results, and don't we all want to live in a better place?

