

Fall 2017

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Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation
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**HISTORIES OF AMERICAN CITIES:
PATTERNS OF URBAN LIFE & URBAN DESIGN**

A 6769

Mondays 11-1, 600 Avery Hall

Every city has a mix of professional planning and raw unregulated development, patterns and anomalies. This dynamic has epitomized American cities for over 300 years; it also extends beyond national borders, embodying the allure and shock of the modern metropolis, affecting what is possible in the present and what people can imagine about the future.

This class explores the evolution of some key ideas, policies, spatial forms and conflicts in American cities, both generic and unique, as well as some of the conditions that influenced them and the patterns that have spread abroad. While focusing on historical patterns, each session also takes up questions for the present. What is “downtown”? How has it changed in use and location? How do building sites influence social life and natural environments? Lectures and readings explore topics like the uses and distortions of maps; the transience of commercial spaces; shifts in housing typologies; changing “civic sites” like city halls and stadia; conflicts between developers and communities; the collective necessity of infrastructure; the appeal and neglect of nature; and the ongoing toll of racial inequalities.

Regular class attendance is *required*. So are research-paper proposals and weekly readings: both primary (historical) sources and recent (secondary) analyses. Read each week’s assignments *before* class for background.

Three 1-page analyses of various kinds of sources are also *required* (submitted *on time*), plus a *research paper* (or another approved final project). There is no exam--- except for students who miss 3 or more classes.

NOTE: The first set of readings for every week are *required* & available on Canvas.

WEEK 1 (Sept. 11). AMERICAN PATTERNS OF COMMUNITY & CONFLICT

Inscribing beliefs on the landscape; transnational influences; colonial towns and origin myths; the idea of ‘American exceptionalism’.

You may want to begin with some short BACKGROUND READINGS on Canvas:

“Timeline,” *Settlement Patterns: Perspecta* 30 (1999), 7-9

“Urban Matters,” *Praxis* 10 (2008): 4-15.

See overviews in David Gosling, *The Evolution of American Urban Design* (2003) & Alexander Garvin, *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't* (New York, 2014). Also note that architectural history is an essential underpinning for urban history.

For background on Native American and colonial-era cities, see

William Fash and Leonardo Luján, *The Art of Urbanism: How Mesoamerican Kingdoms Represented Themselves in Architecture and Imagery* (Washington, DC, 2009)

Richard L. Kagan, et.al., *Urban Images of the Hispanic World, 1493-1793* (New Haven, 2000), esp. 1-11, 33-39

Hugh Thomas, *World without End: Spain, Philip II and the First Global Empire* (2016)

Karen Kupperman, “International at the Creation: Early Modern American History” in Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age* (Berkeley, 2002), 102-33

Bernard Bailyn, *The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America: The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675* (New York, 2012)

WEEK 2 (Sept. 18). MANUFACTURING CIVIC & COMMERCIAL CULTURE

The meanings of maps; business patrons for urban plans; the dissemination of grids and town squares; urban ‘boosterism’; producing land for industrial and commercial space.

James Corner, “The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique, Invention,” in Denis Cosgrove, ed., *Mapping* (London, 1999), 213-52

Jack H. Williamson, "The Grid: History, Use, and Meaning," in Victor Margolis, *Design Discourse* (Chicago, 1989), 171-86

Phil Steinberg and Rob Shields, *What Is a City? Remaking the Urban after Hurricane Katrina* (Athens, 2008), 172-185

Recommended:

Bill Hubbard, *American Boundaries: The Nation . . . & the Rectangular Survey* (Ch, 2009)

David Scobey, *Empire City: The Making and Meaning of the New York Landscape*(2002)

Nancy Seasholes, *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston* (Cambr. 2003)

Robert Wright, *The First Wall Street: Chestnut Street...*(Chicago, 2005)

Mario Gooden, “‘Made in America,’: There Is No Such Thing as African-American Architecture,” in Gooden, *Dark Space* (NY, 2016), pp. 10-19

WEEK 3 (Sept. 25). PROGRESSIVES & THE “CITY BEAUTIFUL”

American visions of modern urban growth; civic centers and neighborhood reforms; the ‘new woman’; modern social sciences and regional modernisms in Europe and the US.

***** First Assignment Due**

Jane Addams, “The Objective Value of a Social Settlement” (1893) (selected pp) from

C.Lasch, ed, *The Social Thought of Jane Addams* (NY, 1965), 44-55, 60-61

Randolph Bourne, “Our Unplanned Cities,” “The Architect” (both 1915) and “Trans-

National America (1916) in *Randolph Bourne: The Radical Will*, ed. Olaf Hansen (Berkeley, 1977), 248-9, 260-64, 275-81

Daniel T. Rodgers, “An Age of Social Politics” in Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age* (Berkeley, 2002), 254-273

Recommended:

Jessica Ellen Sewell, *Women and the Everyday City: Public Space in San Francisco,*

1890-1915 (Minneapolis, 2011)

Sabine Haemmi, *The Immigrant Scene: Ethnic Amusements in NY, 1880-1920* (Min. ’08)

John C. Hudson, *Chicago: A Geography of the City and Its Region* (Chicago, 2006)

Howard Gillette, *Between Justice and Beauty: Race, Planning and the Failure of Urban*

Policy in Washington DC (Baltimore, 1995)

Nick Yablon, *Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of . . . Modernity, 1819-1919* (Chic, 2009)

Sonia Hart, *Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implication of American Land-Use*

Regulation (Ithaca, NY, 2014)

WEEK 4: (Oct. 2). THE ‘HOUSING CRISIS’ IN CITIES AND SUBURBS

Modern “projects” as ideal or dystopia; reinforcing urban ghettos; site plans and regulations, urban & suburban; affordable housing; Is there a “Right to Housing”?

Tenement House Department of the City of New York, *For You* (New York, 1917)

Eric Mumford, “The ‘Tower in a Park’ in America: Theory and Practice, 1920-1960,”

Planning Perspectives 10 (1995), 17-41

William Morrish, et al., *Growing Urban Habitats* (SF, 209), p22-23,76-83,128-31,179-83

Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson, *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design*

Solutions for Redesigning Suburbia (Hoboken, 2009, 2014), viii-xiii, 2-13

Recommended:

John Bauman et. Al., *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes* (University Park, PA, 2000)

Brian Goldstein, *The Roots of Urban Renaissance: Gentrification and the Struggle Over Harlem* (Cambridge, 2017)

Alan Maynew, *Slums: The History of a Global Injustice* (Chicago, 2017)

Michael Duneier, *Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, The History of an Idea* (NY, 2016)

Michael Woodsworth, *Battle for Bed-Stuy: The Long War on Poverty* (Cambridge, 2017)

Barbara M. Lane, *Houses for a New World: Builders and Buyers in American Suburbs, 1945-1965* (Princeton, 2015)

Lawrence Herzog, *Global Suburbs: Urban Sprawl from Rio Grande to Rio* (NY, 2015)

WEEK 5 (Oct. 9): COMMERCIAL CULTURE IN AMERICAN URBAN LIFE

‘The world-as-exhibition’ from department stores to shopping centers; the rise and demise of Main Streets; vulgar Strips and monotonous malls; *where* is retail today?

**** Second Assignment due**

Victor Gruen, “Cityscape and Landscape,” *Arts and Architecture* (Sept. 1955)

Anna Klingmann, *Brandscapes: Architecture in the Experience Economy* (2007), 312-29

Rem Koolhaas, et.al., and the Harvard Project on the City II, *The Harvard Guide to Shopping* (Basel, 2001), pp. **TKKK**

Recommended:

Alex Wall, *Victor Gruen* (Barcelona, 2005), esp. pp. 58-72, 107-13

Ann Satterwaite, *Going Shopping: Consumer Choices, Comm. Consequences* (NH, 2001)

Timothy Davis, “The Miracle Mile Revisited,” in Annmarie Adams and Sally McMurry, eds., *Exploring Everyday Landscapes* (Knoxville, 1997), pp. 93-114

John Chase, *Glitter Stucco and Dumpster Diving* (New York, 2002)

Ann Bergren, “Jon Jerde and the Architecture of Pleasure,” *Assemblage* 37 (1998), 8-35

WEEK 6 (Oct. 16): THE NEW DEAL, PRAGMATISM & INFRASTRUCTURE

Modernities and militarism; soft and hard infrastructure; public opinion and expertise; debating tactics and priorities: is there a legacy for the New Deal?

Lateral Office, et al., “New New Deal: Infrastructures of Life Support,” in Katrina Stoll and Scott Lloyd, eds., *Infrastructure as Architecture* (Berlin, 2010), 56-63

Elizabeth Mossup, “Landscapes of Infrastructure” and Chris Reed, “Public Works Practice,” in Charles Waldheim, ed., *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (New York, 2006), 165-177, 267-285

Kazys Varnelis, “Invisible City: Telecommunication,” in Varnelis, ed. *The Infrastructural City* (Barcelona, 2008), 118-129

Robert Kargon and Arthur Molella, *Invented Edens: Techno-Cities of the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, 2008) esp. 67-90

Recommended:

Jean-Louis Cohen, *Architecture in Uniform: Designing and Building for the Second World War* (Montreal, 2011)

Tim Culvahouse, ed., *The Tennessee Valley Authority* (New York, 2007)

Russell Bourne, *Americans on the Move: A History of Waterways, Railways and Highways* (New York, 1995)

Alastair Gordon, *Naked Airport: A Cultural History* (New York, 2004)

P. Christin and O. Bastin, *Robert Moses: The Master Builder of NYC* (NY, 2014)

Harold Platt, *Building the Urban Environment* (Philadelphia, 2015)

Keller Easterling, *Organization Space: Landscapes, Highways, Houses* (Cam, 1999)

-----, *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space* (London, 2014)

WEEK 7 (Oct. 23): POST-WAR URBAN CENTERS & ‘EDGE CITIES’

Urban renewal: slum clearance, demolition for luxury apartments and convention centers; obsolescence; Jane Jacobs reframes urban life; new-towns-in-town; suburban campuses.

**** Research Proposal due**

Catherine Bauer, “Do Americans Hate Cities?” (1956) rpt. *Architecture California*, 1994

Louise Mozingo, *Pastoral Capitalism: A History of Suburban Corporate Landscapes* (Cambridge, 2011), 61-91

Richard M. Sommer, “Philadelphia – The Urban Design of Philadelphia: Taking the Towne for the City” in Rudolph El-Khoury and Edward Robbins, eds., *Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory and Urban Design* (NY/Lon, 2004), 149-176

Recommended:

Alan Shulman, ed., *Miami Modern Metropolis: Paradise and Paradox in Midcentury Architecture and Planning* (Miami Beach, 2009)

Manuel Castells and Peter Hall, *Technopoles of the World: The Making of 21st Century Industrial Complexes* (New York, 1994)

Max Page and Timothy Mennel, eds., *Reconsidering Jane Jacobs* (New York, 2011)

Samuel Zipp, *Manhattan Projects: The Rise and Fall of Urban Renewal in Cold War New York* (New York, 2010)

Daniel M. Abramson, *Obsolescence* (Chicago, 2015)

WEEK 8 (Oct. 30): ENVIRONMENTALISM AND URBANISM

The legacy of urban parks; rediscovering early green design; Earth Day & environmental justice; American sensibilities or disdain for natural environments?

Frederick Law Olmsted, “Public Planning and the Enlargement of Towns” (1870) in S.B. Sutton, ed., *Civilizing American Cities* (NY, 1997), 52-99 (rec. selections)

Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* (New York 1971), 137-60

Matthew Gancy, *The Fabric of Space: Water, Modernity and the Urban Imagination* (Cambridge, 2014), pp. 45-89

Recommended:

David Gissen, *Subnature: Architecture's Other Environment* (New York, 2009)

-----, *Manhattan Atmospheres: Architecture, the Interior Environment and Urban Crisis* (New York, 2015)

Raina Ghosn and El Hadi Jazairy, *Geographies of Trash* (New York, 2015)

Blake Gumprecht, *The Los Angeles River: Its Life, Death and Rebirth* (Baltimore, 2001)

Andrew Zolli, *Resilience: Why Things Bounce Back* (NY, 2013)

Reinhold Martin, “Environment, c. 1973,” *Grey Room* (Winter 2004), 79-101

Matthew Klingle, *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle* (New Haven, 2007)

WEEK 9. (Nov. 6) ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

WEEK 10 (Nov. 13). URBAN CRISES/ URBAN SPECTACLES of the 1960s

*** **Third Assignment due**

Community design; Rustbelt and Sunbelt cities in a post-Fordist economy; ephemeral architectural spectacles; tourism, tax-revenues and cities as “growth machines”

Paul Davidoff, "Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning," *Journal of the APA* (1965),
 rpt. Richard LeGates, et.al., eds., *The City Reader* (New York, 1996), 421-434
 Patrick Schumacher and Christian Rogner, “After Ford” in Georgia Daskalakis, et al.,
 eds, *Stalking Detroit* (Barcelona, 2001), 48-56
 “Introduction” and “Cleveland Medi-Plex City” in Julia Czerniak, ed., *Formerly Urban:
 Projecting Rust Belt Futures* (NY, 2013), pp. 21-32, 36-49

Recommended:

Marshall Kaplan, *Urban Planning in the 1960s: A Design for Irrelevancy* (Camb. 1973)
 Thomas Segrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* (Princeton, 1996)
 Robert Halpern, *Rebuilding the Inner City: A History of Neighborhood Initiatives* (1995)
 Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto* (New York, 1978), 68-72
 Richard Bernard and Bradley Rice, *Sunbelt Cities: Policy and Control* (Austin, 1985)
 Alan Altshuler and David Luberoff, *Mega-Projects* (Washington, DC, 2003)

WEEK 11 (Nov 20): ENCLAVES of HISTORY, SCIENCE, FEAR & BUSINESS

Historic preservation & contextual design; urban design guidelines & regulations; extra-urban territories for corporations and technology; the rise of theory

Kevin Lynch, “City Models and City Design” in Lynch, *A Theory of Good City Form*
 (Cambridge, MA, 1981), 277-291
 Joel Warren Barna, *The See-Through Years: Creation & Destruction in Texas
 Architecture and Real Estate, 1981-1991* (Austin, 1991), 91-107
 Daniel Abramson, “Make History, Not Memory,” *Harvard Design Magazine* 9 (F 1999)
 Margaret O’Mara, “Landscapes of Knowledge & High Technology,” *Places* 19: 48-53

Recommended:

Tom Agnotti, *Zoned Out! Race, Displacement and City Planning in NYC* (NY, 2016)
 Jorge Otero-Pailos, et.al., ed., *Experimental Preservation* (Zurich, 2016)
 Max Page & Randall Mason, ed, *Giving Preservation a History* (NY, 2004), esp. 185-206
 Thomas Gieryn, “Biotechnology’s Private Parts (and Some Public Ones)” in Crosbie
 Smith & Jon Agar, eds., *Making Space for Science* (New York, 2016), p. 281-312
 Leslie Berlin, *Troublemakers: Silicon Valley’s Coming of Age* (New York, 2017)
 Margaret O’Mara, *Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the
 Next Silicon Valley* (Princeton, 2015)
 Barry Katz and John Maede, *Make It New: A History of Silicon Valley Design* (2015)

WEEK 12 (Nov. 27): URBAN HISTORY AS THE LURE OF THE FUTURE and RETURN OF THE REPRESSED

The ‘experience’ economy; public-private partnerships; ‘big data’ and networks; community identities and ongoing segregation; urban disasters and urban resilience

Michael B. Katz, “What Is an American City?” *Dissent* (2009), rept.in Raymond Mohl and Roger Biles, eds., *The Making of Urban America*, 3rd ed. (New York, 2012), pp. 333-340 and Katz, *Why Don't American Cities Burn?* (Philadelphia, 2013)
 Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin, *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition* (L & NY, 2002), 203-216
 Alex Krieger and William S. Saunders, eds., *Urban Design* (Minneapolis, 2009), especially Michael Sorkin, “The End(s) of Urban Design,” pp. 155-182

Recommended:

Glynda Caldwell and Carl Smith, eds., *Digital Futures and the City of Today: New Technologies and Physical Spaces (Mediated Cities)* (Chicago, 2016)
 Anthony Townsend, *Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers and the Quest for a New Utopia* (New York, 2014)
 Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (New York, 2017)
 Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (NY, 2017)
 Joshua David, *High Line: The Inside Story of New York's Park in the Sky* (NY, 2015)
 Michael Lariace & Elizabeth Macdonald, eds., *The Urban Design Reader* (NY 2007)
 Robert Gottlieb, *Reinventing Los Angeles: Nature and Community in the Global City* (Cambridge, 2007)
 Rebecca Kinney, *Beautiful Wasteland: The Rise of Detroit as America's Postindustrial Frontier* (Minneapolis, 2016)
 Brent C. Ryan, *Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities* (Phi 2012)
 Margaret Dewar and June Thompson, eds., *Design after Abandonment* (Phil, 2012)
 Michael Sorkin, ed., *The Architecture of the National Insecurity State* (New York, 2007)