Course Syllabus

.[ARCHA4688_001_2018_1] Recombinant Urbanism and Public Space

Course Description

This seminar examines how cities grow and develop over time. It employs a theory of urban actors and conceptual models as tools for the analysis of the city and its design ecologies. The course maps transformations in these actors and models at various scales over time in a specific locations. Actors use conceptual models to link to the larger forces shaping a city network. Students will construct a layered model of a city of their own choosing and employ models derived from the course to illustrate the structure and growth of that city, including its representative public spaces and urban fabrics.

Course Objectives

The course objective is to develop a visual and verbal language for the discussion of how cities develop over time. The emphasis will be on the ruleswhich generated the initial growth and on how they are transformed in later iterations, innovations or repetitions. A major focus will be on the relations between the public space in different growth patterns in the city and the shifting/changing relations between these growth centers. The seminar will attempt to draw out how these relationships develop over time and what the impacts of these changes have on specified areas of the city, their life and its built form, public space or fabric. Various scenarios and city models will be considered from around the world.

 Method of Instruction

The first part of the course consists of 4 lecture/discussions based on the required Recombinant Urbanism (2005) course book followed by the students construction of a sketch city model in groups for mid-term. The second part consists of 3 further lecture/discussions concentrating on the role of enclaves; armatures and heterotopias in creating urban fabric, nodes and public space. Students will then make "Semi Final" presentations that develop their research further in specific areas of their city model, tracking shifitng centers etc. These "Semi-final" presentation sessions take the form of open tutorial sessions/ presentations towards the end of the semester and students are expected to learn from each others presentations. Students will be expected to make a final digital presentation at the end of the term before visiting critics and to help assemble a web site based on the seminars research.

 Method of working

This course employs lecture/discussions, class presentations, tutorials, lectures stored on the web and reading material based on the required class text book as part of its working method. Students are expected to work in groups. They may

write with questions via email to the instructor and arrange office hours via email on an as needed basis. The course TA will manage the website construction and the final presentation of the website and its delievery on disk counts for a large portion of the grade, as does full class attendance and "lively participation" in the course discussions.

The timetable for the class follows the school wide guidelines but will be adjusted for the Urban Design studio requirements for travel, juries etc with make-up classes scheduled when required.

Make up class1+2/3 tutorials for final presentation for seminar are to be confirmed.