INTRODUCTION:
Arch 561 is a course on urbanism organized around two weekly lectures. It is the first in a series of four courses reflecting on architecture, landscape architecture, planning, and urban theory. Arch 561 seeks to trace the history of ideas about the city - from antiquity to the present - through the cities which produced them. For one reason or another, the 12 cities we will be studying in this course have generated a profusion of texts and writing - mostly as a bi-product of societal or technological change or the perceived need for change. These writings reflect the struggle thinkers have had with their environments – theorizing ways of not only understanding the city but how we might consider modifying, adapting, and changing them. These texts will form the basis for the required readings in this course. But they have also been selected to help illuminate the varied and ongoing struggles all cities continue to wrestle with under pressures of rapid population growth and the need to become ecologically sustainable. The course seeks to articulate nuance and difference in place and culture; hoping to suspend -- for the duration of the course anyway -- the theory by some commentators that all cities have become interchangeable: lost in the generic and ubiquitous nature of globalization, sprawl, and commercial capitalism.

Arch 561 will study of the basic spatial and infrastructure elements of the city, and how urban places are formed. Focus will be on incremental development, public-private collaboration, community incentives and controls, project implementation strategies. The course will focus on projects and developments which cross-over between disciplines and intensively look at the connections between planning, architecture, and landscape architecture. In addition to socio-politico-cultural elements which drive the existence and development of cities, this course will endeavor to spatialize (after Soja) these theories as well – to discuss them not only in terms of human relations, but how the artifact of the city itself helps manifest, structure, and form these relations. The course will look closely at each city through a collection of precedents, projects, and developments at various scales which emerged or will emerge from within them and demonstrate a cross-over between design disciplines.

Lastly, this course will endeavor to eliminate traditional academic categorizations of the city under the heading of architecture, urban planning, or landscape architecture. Theory which only looks at the city through the lens of Architecture, for instance, as a system to understand change and development, denies the possibility of understanding the potential advantages that Landscape Architecture might bring to the city (in recent years it has been argued that landscape architecture is a more effective means for organizing the life of the city). By understanding the role that each discipline has brought to the city, this course aspires to provide students with a broad spectrum of potential models and ideas from which to form new tools for thinking about and operating on our environments.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:
Students will be responsible for attending each lecture and doing the required readings each week – missing more than one class without a valid excuse will result in failure of the course. Short questions and statements will be required of each reading. A Final Project is required and will be in the form of a drawn “Mapping” and accompanied with a 1500-word paper by each person. This Map will distills information from this course into cartographic form, combining it with data of your own choosing, with the goal of articulating a specific “force” in the space of a city; enmeshed simultaneously in local idiosyncrasies and the global system (see Final Project handout for specifics).

Class Participation: 5%
Weekly writings: 60% (12@5% each) Due at the beginning of each class
Final Mapping w/paper: 35% Due @ Final Exam date

COURSE READINGS:
This class meets twice a week for 2 hours. Readings are assigned for each class unless otherwise noted. It is the responsibility of the student to complete each required reading. For the readings assigned for each class, one (400-word minimum) statement, response, or question discussing both articles is to be submitted at the beginning of class:

COURSE CONTENT & READING REQUIREMENTS.

WEEK 1:

Session 1
***[Mapping assignment given with precedents]***

INTRODUCTION

Session 2

GLOBALIZATION
Globalization topics covered: The Anthropocene; Human planetary impact; Arjun Appadurai; Urbanism; Global Flows; Trojan Horse of the 2050 population explosion; Andreas Gursky; Bernard Rudofsky; Koolhaas and Junkspace; Manual Castels and the Information Society; Re-emergence of the City State; Multiculturalism; Globalization – at a planetary scale; Saskia Sassen and cities as key sites for the production of Services; Sanford Kwinter and new roles for local knowledge; Differentiation; Richard Florida; Mayor Bloomberg; Post Theory; Post Nature; Post Nationalism; Post Urban; Post Human; City Scales; Center for Land Use Interpretation; Stefano Boeri.

Readings Due:

WEEK 2:

Session 1

NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

Session 2

***[Mapping Teams submitted, Mapping project ideas sketched]***

AMSTERDAM : data
Amsterdam topics covered: City of Exchange and Trade; Windmills; City as Artifice – man vs. nature; Conurbation and the Randstad; land reclamation; dykes, and dredging; Polders; Dutch Tulips; Vermeer; De Hooch; Breugel; De Stil and cartesianism; Mondrian; Theo van Doesburg and Compact Form; Atelier van Lieshout; Canals; Berlage, Van Esteren, and Amsterdam South; The Urban Statistic; Brinkman’s Spangen; Oud’s Kieifhoek; the Amsterdam Provos and the White Bicycle plan; Aldo Van Eyck; Woonerfs; Rem Koolhaas and the Dutch scene; Pragmatic Datascape of MVRDV; NL Architects; West 8; Almere; Borneo Sporenburg; Schouwburgplein; Landscape Urbanism 1.

Readings Due:


WEEK 3:

Session 1

ATHENS : phenomena
Topics covered: Pre Civilization; Polis; Democracy; Nietzsche’s Appolonian vs. Dionysian; The 3 classical orders; Agora; Stoa; Acropolis; Doxiades; perspectival planning; Entasis; Delphi; Confetti of public structures; Le Corbusier and Hellenism; Athens Charter & CIAM; Space of Antiquity and the 1833 Plan; Mediterranean Hill Towns; Sidi Bou Sa’id, Tunisia; Phenomenology and the city of the individual; Kenneth Frampton; Ise Shrine; Richard Serra; Steven Holl; Peter Zunthor; OMA at Agadir; Xeferioarch; Tom Wiscombe; Mohsen Mostafavi; Marcus Miessen.

Readings Due:

Session 2

BEIJING : control
Beijing topics covered: Xanadu; Marco Polo; Calvino’s Invisible Cities; Genghis and Kublai Khan; Capitol City Rebirth(s); Beijing Walls; Archetypal Structural Brackets; Ring Roads; The Forbidden City; Street Trees; Mao Zedong’s Great Leap Forward Plan of 1949; Beijing Dust, Drought, Floods, and Traffic; Bicycles vs. automobile; Weather Modification Unit; Migrants and the Hokoa; Urban Villages; Caochangdi; District 789; Ai Weiwei; ‘un-real’ estate ventures; Hutongs; MAD architects; Linked Hybrid; 2008 Olympics; The New Intelligent City; Qianhai Water City; CJ Lim; Emergent’s Beijing National Hotel; OMA’s CCTV; Chinatowns;

Readings Due:


WEEK 4:

Session 1

BERLIN : void
Berlin topics covered: City as Void Cut from the Forest; Seat of a Prussian Confederation; Unter den Linden; Tiergarten; Urban Forest; U-Bahn, S-Bahn, M-Bahn; Block Planning; Camillo Sitte; Peter Joseph Lenne; Schinkel; Caspar David Friederich; Fischer von Ehrlich; Goethe; Naturalism; Gartenstadt Staaken; Le Corbusier and Modernist Humanism; Mendelson; Ernst May & Rommerstadt; The Frankfurt Kitchen; Bruno Taut; Hilberseimer; Hannes Meyer; Mies van der Rohe; Friedrichstrasse; Simmel; Dadaism; Das Neue Sachlichkeit; Hannah Hoch; Kurt Schwitters; Merz; El Lissitzky; Proun; Albert Speer; Berlin Void; Berlin Wall; Potsdamer platz; Berlin Free University; Unger’s Sommer Akademie; Bernd und Hild Becher; Karl Blossfeldt; Koolhaas and Strategies of the Void; OMA Dutch Embassy; John Hejduk; Berlin Masques; Daniel Libeskind; the Jewish Museum; Architectures of Memory; Automatic Architecture; Lars Lerup; Various IBA proposals; Berlin Bikes; Berlin Rooftop Solar Atlas;

Readings Due:

Session 2

BRASILIA : utopia
Topics covered: Monumentality; Superblocks; Irvine; The Competition for Brasilia; Costa; Niemeyer; Monumental Axis; Superquadra; Roberto Burle Marx; Copa Cabaña; System of the Quadra; Pilotis; UNESCO and the Historical Preservation of Brasilia’s ‘Project’ Status; Planned integrations of rich and poor; Utopianism; The Garden of Eden; Thomas More; Various Utopias including Broadacre City, Ville Radiuse, Communitas, City Industrielle, Bridge City, No Stop City; Karlsruhe; Fourier; Ledoux & Chaux; The strategy of Utopian projections; Antonio Sant’Elia; Garnier; Le Corbusier; Paul Rudolph; Kurokawa; Kenzo Tange; Candilis, Josaic, Woods; Buckminster Fuller; Superstudio; Archizoom; Archigram; Yona Friedman; Constant; Michael Webb; Blade Runner; Dystopianism; Favelas; Witold Rybczynski; Terreform1; Dogma; Stefano Boeri

Readings Due:


WEEK 5:
Session 1

LAGOS : emergence
Topics covered: Emergent and informal systems in Urban Design; In class video of Rem Koolhaas/GSD Project on the City video analysis of Lagos.

Readings Due:
none

Session 2

LAS VEGAS : communication
Readings Due:


WEEK 6:

Session 1

LONDON : adaptation
Topics covered: Horizontal City Part 1: Charles Darwin; Evolution; Colonialism; City along a River; City of villages which grow together (Synoecism); Turner; The Great Fire of 1666; City of poverty; The London Square; Christopher Wren; John Soane; Charles Bridgeman; The English Garden; Ha Ha; William Kent; Capability Brown; Picturesque; Sublime; Greenhouses; Crystal Palace; Ebeneezer Howard; Garden City; Letchworth; Coin Street citizens initiative planning; Congestion Pricing; 2012 Olympics; Panopticon; Engels in Manchester; Industrialization; John Snow and Cholera Mapping; D’Arcy Thompson; Morphogenesis; Alan Turing; Algorithmic Design; Systems Design; Archigram; Alison and Peter Smithson; Richard Rogers; Norman Foster; Zaha Hadid; Parametricism; Smart Cities.

Readings Due:

Howard, Ebenbeezer. “Author’s Introduction” and “The Town-Country Magnet” from Garden Cities of To-morrow. Pp 314-321

Session 2

LOS ANGELES : network
Topics covered: Horizontal City Part 2: Steel Cloud; Suburbia; Aqueducts; Driving & Traffic; Earthquakes; Riots; Smog; Sprawl; Destination Urbanism; Reyner Banham; Infrastructure; Law of the Indies; The use of palm trees and vegetation; Moule & Polyzoides, Pueblo, Town, City, Metropolis; Ranchos; Red Cars; Urban renewal after the freeway and car; City of Neighborhoods; Network Urbanism; Varnelis and the City of media/Ether; Ed Ruscha; The Bungalow; Wallace Neff; Frank Lloyd Wright; Greene & Greene; The Courtyard Apartment; Rudolf Schindler; Richard Neutra; John Lautner; Indoor-Outdoor Living; The Village Green; Ray and Charles Eames; Gregory Ain; Pierre Koning; The Dingbat; Morphosis; Frank Gehry; Eric Owen Moss; Kevin Lynch; Cognitive Mapping; Drossscape; Re:American Dream; Doug Suisman; Everyday Urbanism: New Urbanism; Seaside; Scalar Transects; Disassembly of a Mall; Peter Calthorpe; Transit Oriented Developments (TOD’s); LA River.
Readings Due:


WEEK 7:
Session 1

NEW YORK. Verticality
Topics Covered: Vertical City; 5 Boroughs; New Amsterdam; Grid City; Thomas Jefferson; Crowds and the Culture of Congestion; Delirious New York; The Skyscraper; Hugh Ferriss; Zoning; Hybrid Buildings; The Alphabet City; Steven Holl; Air Rights; Sunnyside Gardens, Radburn, & Riverside; Olmstead; Central Park; William Whyte; Pocket Parks; Robert Moses; Jane Jacobs; The Ballet of the City and Rear Window; The Stoop; Diane Arbus; Warhol; Gordon Matta-Clark; Gentrification; Landscape Urbanism; Brownfields; Heat Island Effect; Fresh Kills; James Corner Field Operations; High Line; Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord; Eva Castro Plasma Studio; Downsview Park; Soft Infrastructures; Urban Farming.

Readings Due:


Session 2
[***MAPPINGS PAPER DUE***]

PARIS. Rebellion
Topics covered: Centralized Organization; Isle de la Cite; Walls & Rings; Arrondisments and la petite couronne; Carnavalesque; Rousseau; Boullee; Le Notre; Laugier; Ledoux and the Barrières; Napoleon; Haussman; Italian Facades; Limestone; Garnier’s Opera; Boulevard; Street Trees; Electrification; Hector Guimard; Impressionism; Flaneur; Arcades; Rebellions; The Eighteenth Brumaire of Napoleon III; Tabula Rasa and Le Corbusier; Marcel Duchamp; Surrealism; The Situationsits; Psycho-geographic wanderings; George Perec; Les Halles; May of 68; De Certeau; Claude Parent; OMA’s La Defense proposal; Centre Georges Pompidou; Grand Projets and Parc de la Villette; Deleuze; The New Naturalism of Francois Edouard; Francois Roche; Philipe Rahm; Grand Paris.
Readings Due:


Week 8:
Last Session

ROME
[***MAPPINGS DUE***
Topics Covered: Figure Ground, Nolli Map, Sixtus V & tourism, Carto & Decumanus, Serlio, Colin Rowe, Pirenese, Rossi, Topography, St. Peter’s, Vitruvius, Francesco di Giorgio, Santa Maria del Pace

Readings Due:


ADDITIONAL COURSE CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY
Adopted by the University Committee on Curriculum, May 1, 2007

ATTENDANCE
This course adheres to the School of Architecture attendance policies. Because of the concentrated nature of course offerings, consistent attendance is a critical aspect of the course. Absence from class cannot easily be "made up" when the class experience involves unique exposure to resources not otherwise available to the students. As such absence from class can have a significant impact on the evaluation of student and may result in an unsatisfactory grade.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to a Class Assistant) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.– 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will
be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT
The USC School of Architecture’s Master of Architecture degree is an accredited professional architectural degree program. All students can access and review the NAAB Conditions of Accreditation (including the Student Performance Criteria) on the NAAB Website: http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2009_Conditions.aspx

BIBLIOGRAPHY


