

experiences within cities, a meeting ground of conceptual ideas and the real forces at work in cities.

Comparative studies of neighborhood conservation and development, central city regeneration, growth policies for metropolitan regions and emerging sustainable cities are discussed and debated. Future prospects for restructuring cities and metropolitan regions are examined. Case study examples are accompanied by research and direct field experience through urban design projects which address neighborhood, central city and regional issues.

The course focuses on contemporary Urban Design issues in North America and selected cities abroad using case studies from Portland, Seattle, Vancouver BC, New York, Baltimore, Berlin, Barcelona, Stockholm, Curitiba (Brazil) and other cities. The format combines lectures, discussions, workshops and urban design projects.

Course Focus

The course is structured in three parts, each with readings, lecture-discussions and project work:

- **Urban Development Theories and Models.** Focus on alternative visions of urbanism during the mid-late 20th and early 21st century: the classic contemporary models and influences of Jane Jacobs, Lewis Mumford and Le Corbusier. This provides a foundation upon which to consider emerging theories and models.
- **Urban Regeneration.** Central city development, conservation and design. Comparative studies and discussions focus on recent seminal and controversial urban regeneration projects. Discussion of emerging urban design theories as developed in Portland, Vancouver, Berlin, Barcelona and other case study cities.
- **Regional Growth and Development.** Planning, design and environmental sustainability issues created by regional growth. Discussions examine suburban and regional growth patterns, alternative models for the future, and concepts that seek more equitable and environmentally sustainable forms of regional development. Case studies focus on Portland, Curitiba, Brazil, Stockholm Sweden and other cities.

The Portland Laboratory

The Portland region is used as a laboratory for critical discussion of urban design concepts and principles, building on the metropolitan area's achievements in downtown development, neighborhood revitalization, land use / transit planning and regional growth management. Portland's development issues are viewed through the lens of contemporary urban design theory, comparing its approach to methods used in other cities in North America and abroad.

The course addresses issues of the central city and the larger metropolitan area, focusing on challenges facing the region as it strives to build a more livable, equitable and sustainable regional structure.

Reader and References

Course readings are contained in a Reader issued in sections by the instructor. Video documentaries and other digital resources are used as additional sources.

Selected references are placed on the instructor's course Reserve in the UO Portland Library and Learning Commons.

Class Sessions and Discussions

The quality of class discussion is essential to this course. All members of the class share responsibility for preparation and contribution to the class sessions. Brief issue papers are often assigned to help prepare for discussions. Short (10-15 minute) issue questions / responses are often given at the start of class at 9:00 to start discussions.

Instructor / Information

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Gerry Gast is an architect and urban designer, Associate Professor in the University of Oregon Portland Architecture Program, and founding principal of *Gast Hillmer Urban Design* in the San Francisco Bay Area. He held the position as Visiting Associate Professor in the Program on Urban Studies at Stanford University where he authored the principal urban design theory and studio courses in the interdisciplinary Program on Urban Studies. Visiting Scholar in the Stanford Urban Studies Program, 2008-09.