

Objectives and Content

This course focuses on contemporary Urban Design in theory and critical practice. Urban Design is examined as both a subject of theoretical inquiry and an activity immersed in the real living experiences within cities, a meeting ground of conceptual ideas and the 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 Structure

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; Emerging theories and approaches to urban design; and new critical challenges for the future.
- **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.

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 COD Library.

Portland Workshop

A class Workshop in Portland will be held all day Saturday October 6. Although optional it is highly recommended.

Instructor / Course Information

Gerry Gast ggast@uorgon.edu geraldgast@gmail.com

Gerry Gast is an architect / urban designer and Associate Professor at the University of Oregon. He is founding principal of *Gast Hillmer Urban Design* in the San Francisco Bay Area, where his practice focuses on public urban design projects in California and the western states. Professor Gast has completed projects in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, San Diego, and the Los Angeles region.

For several years Professor Gast taught as Visiting Associate Professor in the Program on Urban Studies at Stanford University where he authored the core urban design theory and studio courses in the interdisciplinary Program on Urban Studies. He was Visiting Scholar in the Stanford Urban Studies Program in 2008-09.

Professor Gast is currently engaged in research and design work on educational buildings in marginalized neighborhoods of Colombia for the Pies Descalzos Foundation. He authored the Master Plan for the new Striyskiy Park campus of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine and continues to work with the University on the Master Plan, public spaces and buildings. Professor Gast is a member of the Design Advisory Group for the new Lincoln High School in Portland and served on the Master Plan Committee for the project, Portland's first new public high school to be built in 50 years.