ARCH 431 / 531 COMMUNITY DESIGN

Fall 2020
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Department of Architecture, University of Oregon, Eugene
Credits: 3

Time: Thursdays in 206 LA. Officially* 4:15 - 5:45 PM and then remote 6:15 - 7:45 PM

Prerequisites: Junior Standing. ARCH 384 and ARCH 584. Open only to Architecture majors or by permission. This course is applicable for graduate students pursuing the Housing Specialization.

GENERAL COURSE / CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Multidisciplinary examination of the history, theory, and practice in the design and development of meaningful and sustainable neighborhoods. Special focus selected by faculty.

SPECIFIC FOCUS THIS TERM:
The class will begin with an examination of the changes in suburban neighborhood design over the past 100 years as a result of changes in technology, governmental policies, life styles, demographics, and values. Special emphasis will focus on the review of appropriate housing / neighborhood models for the future, given demands for increasing density and responding to diminishing natural resources. Case studies primarily from the U.S., but also from England will be examined. Issues addressed will include: Smart Growth, differences in housing form and neighborhood morphology as a result of density issues (e.g., site, building, unit design principles); affordability; relationship of built environment to natural environment through whole systems approach; housing policy and housing financing; zoning and building codes; new and emerging lifestyles (changing demographics); New Urbanism and neo-traditional town planning; social and behavioral factors as form determinants; origins of suburbia and multi-family housing; providing a sense of community, identity, and memorable image in neighborhood design. In addition, this term a special emphasis will be placed on the actual site design of neighborhoods/projects (thus the prerequisites).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Understanding of the many and complex factors involved in the design of various neighborhood types.
• Understanding of the theoretical, traditional, symbolic, practical, and technical considerations of various housing types and their application to good community design, including issues of homelessness.
• Ability to analyze and conceptually design appropriate neighborhood projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation
Project #1: 2 site-planning projects of various program types (e.g., choice of cluster housing, mix of neighborhood low-rise housing types, infill, low-rise co-housing, micro-units, small structures for the homeless, other)
Project #2: Research paper (issue based) for ARCH 531
Project #3: Research paper or Case Study (for ARCH 431 only)
Project #3: Attendance, and one-page description of Neighborhood Meeting. Possible presentation to class.

COURSE FORMAT:
*Because of the uncertainty due to Covid-19, it is still very fluid. In-class course scheduling and remote scheduling have been tentatively established. We may end up totally on-line, but as of now, I intend to provide most of the lectures pre-recorded so students can access them at their own convenience. The short projects for Project #1 will be presented in class, either in-person or on-line. Typically, this will last one hour. If we are totally on-line, I may use the earlier time of the class for student presentations, discussion, or guest presentations.

COURSE EVALUATION:
Project #1: 2 @ 25% each or 50%; Project #2: 40%; Project #3: 10%