The study and design of the urban building is an essential part of the Urban Architecture and Urban Design education in Portland. The development of cities as social, cultural and economic entities has gone hand in hand with the development of characteristic or typical buildings that have enabled private and public institutions to function and contribute to the complexity and varied life of the city. Urban buildings have always embodied both cultural ideas and functional organization and have changed over time in ways that have mirrored other changes in society.

The last 200 years have seen a proliferation of new and transformed building types connected with the growth of industrial capitalism and associated social change. In the second decade of the new millennium we are experiencing further changes connected to globalization, the emergence of the information technology, climate change, the totally new and unexpected corona virus, and the need for sustainable and regenerative buildings and cities. With these changes, it seems essential to look at the urban building in ways that can help us to understand historical tradition and those aspects of buildings that do not (or should not change) as well as the need for a pragmatic and creative approach to the development of new forms and new characteristics of buildings.

NEW EMPHASIS: Urban building and the urban structure are dramatically impacted and changing by larger forces such as the Covid19 pandemic, the need for buildings to become consistent with the requirements of sustainability and regenerativity, equity and inclusion, as well as social support for buildings and housing for the poor and refugees. The urban neighborhoods of cities like San Francisco and New York are thinning out with families moving to the surrounding greener and safer areas, leaving behind empty houses and unused condos as well as empty office buildings and less used cultural facilities. Empty office buildings are being replaced with home offices, and public transportation such as buses and trains are used far less than before, leaving behind empty terminals and less city income. While some of these functions may return to normal at some point, the long trend of permanent change in buildings and the urban fabric is a primary objective of study and investigation in this course.

The purpose of this course is to develop understandings of urban buildings as meaningful and functional artifacts, and of the relationship between the building and the city. The course will investigate a number of characteristic types, looking at basic configurations, meanings, functional order, and the buildings’ contributions to the economic, social, and formal aspects of cities. Each will be looked at through its historical (and
technological) development, exemplary contemporary buildings, and especially innovative prospects for the future. Emphasis will be on American and European architecture and new urban buildings world-wide will be included. New tendencies in global urban development, or what Manuel Castells calls the “space of flow,” such as global capital development and global social development, urban migration, refugees, and need for more housing are part of the discussion. So is the urgent need of modification of buildings because of requirements by the corona virus and climate change.

Historical – Present – Future
Origin – Current Use – Emerging New

It is hoped that this course will provide both a general historical and cultural background to students interested in the architecture of cities, as well as specific understandings that might be more immediately helpful in the design studio and the understanding of modern contemporary buildings and current urban challenges.

Understanding the urban building within the urban context can be approached within the framework of urban building typology and urban structure morphology as well as other approaches. The building types to be examined have been chosen because of their fundamental difference in basic configuration, and the ability for that difference to help illustrate both basic theory, and the rich variety that cities embody. NEW is the investigation of mixed use and in particular hybrid building types.

The emphasis in the instructors’ presentations is on historical and 20th century material; the emphasis in the student projects will be on contemporary urban buildings and hybrid building types that grow out of the historic building types or are completely new emerging types. Projects will include design speculations in addition to documentary research. Each student selects a building type.

NEW: Students who would like to take credit for architecture history will include historic aspects of their changing building type or their completely new emerging building type in their investigation.

FINAL PROJECT: The final Project will be a refined and finished version of the project presented during week 5 and 9 (final). It will be presented in primarily graphic format (hard poster), and a multi-media presentation digital.

TENTATIVE TOPICS FOR EACH WEEK:
Week 1: TYPE: CONFIGURATIONS, MEANINGS AND FUNCTION. THE URBAN BUILDING AND URBAN SPACE. URBAN MORPHOLOGY. Pandemic, Climate Change…
Week 2: URBAN TYPE AND URBAN LOCATION (H. Davis) Location of Refugees
Week 3: THE TOWN HALL, MARKETS AND RETAIL STORES - Change of Office Buildings
Week 4: LIVING OVER THE STORE (H. Davis) Student Debate: The Need for Adaptation and Change
Week 5: MIXED USE BUILDING/GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS – Pandemic, ECS MID_REVIEW: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Week 6: SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, PRISONS
Week 7: HYBRID BUILDINGS - Combinations
Week 8: RAILWAY STATIONS, TERMINALS AND AIRPORTS Or: HOMELESS, MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOUSING AND SHELTERS
Week 9: STUDENT FINAL PRESENTATIONS
(Please note that this calendar is tentative and may be adjusted according to the needs of the seminar by the weekly more detailed calendar.)

Homeless in Downtown San Francisco

COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS There will be a one 3-hour session per week, to include presentations by the instructor, discussions of readings and presentations of student projects. These projects will include both analysis of historical and contemporary buildings and short design exercises intended to help understanding of building configurations and their relationship to urban space. All students are required to do the weekly readings and assignments, to participate...
in class discussions, and to develop an interim presentation, and a final presentation.


**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understanding of Urban Building Types in their historic evolution, in their contemporary use and design, and with regard to their possible future development.
2. Beginning to understand urban building types in their morphological urban context and urban growth evolution.
3. Understanding the current dramatic changes in the world such as the Covid 19 Pandemic, Climate Change, Refugees, BLM … and their substantial impact on buildings and the urban structure.
4. Learning to come up with innovative design propositions for the adaptation and transformation of existing buildings and urban areas, and new emerging building types.

Dr. Hajo Neis is the Director of Portland Urban Architecture Research Lab (PUARL) (www.puarl.uoregon.edu) and he is interested in the structure and design of the city and its constituent parts, that is buildings, open spaces, patterns and building types. He is also a co-director of the ‘Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism CIU (www.inclusiveurbanism.edu) that deals with diversity and inclusiveness in the city. He conducts yearly conferences on relevant urban design and urban building topics. This academic year he is conducting research on the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East. For questions please contact hajoneis@uoregon.edu He is also working on a Refugee Pattern Language RPL.

International Forum, Tokyo  Photo: H. Neis

SF-Moma Courtyard  Photo: H. Neis 2019

San Francisco Homeless Camp