ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS: PLACE AND CULTURE
Architecture 430 • Architecture 530 • Spring 2022
4 credits
Spring 2021
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Karen Barnes, Antonio Latini and Manas Murthy, GEs

Lectures Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:20, 129 McKenzie Hall

Course content

This is the third course in the required Design Arts sequence for architecture students; the course is also open to non-majors who have a particular interest in the subject. The course is based on the following core concept:

All building projects are situated within a larger cultural, environmental, economic and architectural context. Good architecture is not made up of isolated objects in the world, but in contexts of nature, culture and place. Effective architecture reflects its context and also improves it, and the course will deal with the ways in which this happens, theoretical ideas connected to the questions of context, and case studies that demonstrate various ideas connected to these questions.

The course will deal with these ideas in the landscape, in the city, and in the emerging “new landscape” that combines city and country. It will describe how projects at a variety of scales, and in different places in the world, respond effectively to context, and how studio projects may be developed to reflect these ideas. The course will thereby combine the theoretical and the practical, in the expectation of influencing your design projects in thoughtful and helpful ways.

Learning objectives

• Ability to understand how meaningful architecture is developed out of a critical attitude toward context, be it historical, cultural, ecological, global or some combination thereof (in response to contemporary contextual circumstances, we will devote considerable attention to architecture ‘at the margins’ and ways of building urban resilience)

• Ability to translate understandings of physical and cultural contexts into responsive architectural design strategies

• Ability to analyze the built environment through a variety of critical theoretical frameworks. Ability to scrutinize these theoretical frameworks in order to cultivate one's own lens or principles for contextual analysis

• Ability to think self-critically about one’s own conceptual lens used to understand architectural context

Tentative lecture schedule
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March 29-Howard Introduction: Cultures, building cultures, and place</td>
<td>March 31-Junichi A shop in Tokyo</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>April 5-Howard Vernacular building</td>
<td>April 7-Elisandra Deep into Mexico</td>
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<td>April 12-Howard 20th century architects in place</td>
<td>April 14-Howard Building in the landscape</td>
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<td>April 19-Howard Urban origins and urban form</td>
<td>April 21-Junichi History of Tokyo</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>April 26-Howard Urban building types</td>
<td>April 28-Junichi Water city/Tokyo</td>
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<td>May 3 Midterm exam</td>
<td>May 5-Howard The local context of urban building</td>
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<td>May 10-Howard Dwelling in the city: streets and houses</td>
<td>May 12-Junichi (Howard away) The New Tokyo: Junichi</td>
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<td>May 17-Howard Living over the store</td>
<td>May 19-Howard Regulation, zoning, and urban exclusion</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>May 24-Elisandra At the US/Mexico border</td>
<td>May 26-Howard Grassroots and top down</td>
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**Course information**

All required readings will be on Canvas. Modules will be set up for each week, where you will be able to link to the readings, lecture slides, and recorded video lectures.

Detailed information about course requirements and assessment criteria will be provided at the first class session.

**Grading and GE Role:**
The Department of Architecture maintains a long and successful tradition of peer teaching that benefits both students and GE’s. GE’s will lead discussion sections under the direct supervision of the instructor. These sessions will be conducted according to protocols that have been approved by the instructors and that are common to all sections of the course. GE’s may occasionally provide supplementary instruction on certain topics. The instructor will meet with the GE’s on a weekly basis to coordinate material and ensure that sections are being run consistently and according to the instructors’ specifications. GE’s will work under the direct supervision of the instructors, who will have ultimate responsibility for determining and entering grades. All grading will be done according to clear criteria that are used by the course instructors and all GE’s assisting in the course. The course instructors will regularly review grading activities of GE’s with respect to accuracy and fairness.
Contact Hours and Workload
Graduate students are expected to perform work of greater quantity and more in-depth quality than undergraduate students, typically with forty hours of student engagement for each student credit hour (compared to thirty hours of undergraduate student engagement for each student credit hour). Therefore, for this 4-credit course a graduate student should expect to commit approximately 160 hours, while it is expected that an undergraduate student should expect to commit approximately 120 hours to this course over the duration of the term. Specific requirements that reflect this higher level of engagement for Graduate students will be provided on projects, homework assignments and quizzes.

Students With Disabilities
Students with a documented disability and who anticipate the need for accommodations in this course should arrange to meet with the instructor team by the end of the first week of classes and provide documentation from UO Disability Services.

Inclusion Statement
The School of Architecture and Allied Arts is a community that values inclusion. We are committed to equal opportunities for all faculty, staff and students to develop individually, professionally, and academically regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic standing, cultural beliefs and traditions. We are dedicated to an environment that is inclusive and fosters awareness, understanding, and respect for diversity. If you feel excluded or threatened, please contact your instructor and/or department head. The University Bias Response Team is also a resource that can assist you. Find more information at their website at http://bias.uoregon.edu/index.html or by phoning 541-346-2037.