



Urban Design Studio I: RETAKE THE STREETS – Des Voeux Road & Aberdeen Praya

2018-19 1st Term

Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 pm – 6:15 p.m.,

Venue: Urban Design Studio 5th Floor AIT Building

Instructors:

Associate Professor Hendrik Tieben

Adjunct Assistant Professor Casey Wang

Workshop Inputs:

Adjunct Associate Professor Sujata Govada (CUHK)

Adjunct Associate Professor Daniel Pätzold (CUHK)

Associate Professor Min Jay Kang (NTU)

Associate Professor Felipe Link (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile)

Lecturer Kevin Hsu (Stanford University)

STUDIO BACKGROUND AND GOALS AND APPROACH

Hong Kong is celebrated for one of the most efficient and used public transport systems. However, of all modes of moving around the city the design for street space still prioritizes road based vehicular traffic. In the view of implementing UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda, to create an inclusive, socially just, livable and healthy city, street spaces are of essential importance as the most accessible public spaces. In addition, streets are important for a vibrant local economy and street culture.

The aim of studio is to retake the streets as the essential public spaces of the city by improving their walkability. The first studio of the MSUD programme focuses on two main arterial spaces on Hong Kong Island: Aberdeen Praya and Des Voeux Road. The redesign of these street spaces is seen as the starting point to regenerate the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Both streets had important roles for Hong Kong's history and face similar current challenges: Aberdeen Praya was the main artery of the first fishing village in the south of the island, which predated the foundation of the colonial city. DVR dates back to the early time of the colony. It was created with land reclamations as the main east-west spine of the trading and financial center of the city.

With their current road design they act as dividers between the historical districts and the harbor. They are highly polluted and unsafe to walk. In the case of Des Voeux Road thus a citizen movement was formed and fights for the (partly) pedestrianization of the street.

The studio aims are:

- To learn from on-going citizen initiatives to regenerate streets as public spaces
- Reconstitute the historic links between the harbor front and adjacent neighborhoods.
- Use pedestrianization as key step for the regeneration of these neighborhoods.
- Support local culture, businesses and social interactions.
- Reduce vehicular emissions to improve health and wellbeing.
- Create an environment conducive to play and active aging.

The two case sites were selected as they present Hong Kong's historic development from a fishing village to an international trading port and global financial hub. Each change was linked to fundamental spatial changes related to the waterfronts, street patterns, and building typologies. Thus students can gain an understanding of the urban history and present condition of Hong Kong. For the research of site at Des Voeux Road, the projects will link with activities of the initiative WALKDVR. <http://www.walkdvr.hk/>.

Students are strongly encouraged to enrol in the courses *Urban Processes* and *Urban Transport Networks*, which provide related knowledge and skills and will allow developing more insightful and comprehensive proposals. For instance, the course *Urban Processes* will explain how specific processes and actors, which produce the specific urban forms of the sites, while the course *Urban Transport Networks* explains how intermodal mobility strategies can link different transport systems with the existing public space network to improve walkability.

Each project will be measured on its success in addresses the studio theme and responds to the opportunities and threats of the studio sites. Each project should demonstrate how it integrates considerations about public transport and community processes, respects local identity and how it improves quality of living and social cohesion in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Objectives

- Through observations, mappings and interviews, students will understand how different urban forms and spaces in Hong Kong were generated;
- Based on their analyses, students will learn to appreciate the specific cultural, environmental and social aspects of places;
- The organization of community workshops will give the opportunity to learn how to communicate with different stakeholders.
- Through comparative analyses they learn to understand the specific impact of urban strategies.
- By following the studio objectives students can contribute to the implementation of UN Habitat's *New Urban Agenda*.

Learning Outcome

Upon completing the studio, students will be able to:

- Development and Integration of Professional Knowledge and Skills into Comprehensive Urban Design Solutions;
- Development of Research Skills and Critical Thinking;
- Development of Communication Skills by engaging with different stakeholders and community members;
- Development of Professional Ethics and Personal Development.

Studio Output

Students develop group strategies and individual designs for public spaces, which contribute to the sense of place, and foster inclusiveness and healthier living. The projects need to be presented in drawings and models across the scales 1:2500/1:1000/1:500 as well as detail studies (1:100-1:20) for key areas. Montages and perspectives should show the intended spatial qualities while considering different seasons and times of the day. Statements of addressed issues and design intentions should be formulated in a brief text and complemented with sketches and diagrams. Research findings should be gathered in a studio booklet and include all sources. All students will be required to submit digital documentation.

Deliverables

- Group studies according to defined topics;
 - Short video capturing key aspects of the street spaces;
 - Cross-scale drawings and models presenting the group strategies and the related individual projects (scale TBC);
 - Site models (scale TBC);
 - Phasing plan of proposed design interventions;
 - Diagrams highlighting how the project benefits stakeholders and the general public;
 - Drawings and models showing the integration of new public spaces and buildings in their surrounding in (scale 1:200-500)
 - Perspectives and sections presenting the intended qualities of public spaces and buildings (scale 1:10-100);
 - Written project statement explaining the key issues and design intentions (500 words);
 - Studio booklet
- (Digital documentation of group and individual work is compulsory after final review)



Site 1: Des Voeux Road Central.

www.travelweekly-asia.com/Destination-Travel/From-cars-to-carnival-in-Hong-Kong-s-Des-Voeux-Road-Central



Site 2: Aberdeen Praya Road

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aberdeen_Praya_Road_near_Aberdeen_Fisheries_And_Marine_Offices.JPG

Assessment Scheme

- Group Research 20%
- Overall Group Strategy 20%
- Individual Design Work 50%
- Participation in Joint Placemaking Project 10%

The course is organized in a research part (group work), placemaking exercise, group strategy and an individual design project. The research encompasses mapping exercise, interviews, and precedent studies. It provides the basis for the group strategy and individual design. For a successful project it is fundamentally important to demonstrate how the proposed design is addressing a specific issues identified in the group research and contributes to the realisation of the group strategy and the overall studio theme.

Course Format

The studio teaching is organized as a sequence of lecture inputs, desk critics, placemaking workshop and design reviews. The participation in all these activities is obligatory and important part to seek relevant feedback and develop communication skills.

Stanford-CUHK Boot Camp

The course will include a *Stanford-CUHK Boot Camp* to learn who plans the city and for whom, giving the opportunity to meet with a range of different stakeholders and residents.

Study Trip Taiwan

In addition, the course is linked to an optional study trip to Keelung and Taipei in Taiwan in collaboration with Prof Kang Min Jay of National Taiwan University. Please organize your visa (if needed) as soon as possible.

Required Readings

- Chase, G.L., Crawford. M, and J. Kaliski, eds. (2008), *Everyday urbanism*, New York: Monacelli Press, 2008.
- Gehl, J., *Life Between Buildings: using public space* (Van Nostrand Reinhold New York, 1987)
- Gehl, J., *Cities for People* (Island Press, 2010)

Recommended Readings

Mapping and infographics

- Bertin, B., *Semiology of Graphics: Diagrams, Networks, Maps*, Esri Press (2010)
- Tufte, E.R., *Envisioning Information*, Graphics Press; 1st edition (1990)

Site and Situation

- http://www.hkmemory.hk/collections/oral_history/feature_OH/story05/story5_rec/index.html
- Burdett, R. (ed) LSE Cities. Hong Kong: Cities, Health and Well-being. Available at: <http://lsecities.net/ua/conferences/2011-hongkong/>
- Canhem, S. and Wu, R., *Portrait from Above, Hong Kong's informal rooftop communities* (Peperoni Books / Mccm, 2010).
- Shelton, B., Karakiewicz, J. & Kvan, T., *The Making of Hong Kong: From Vertical to Volumetric* (Taylor & Francis, 2010).

City and Citizens

- Cullen, G., *The Concise Townscape* (Oxfrd: Architectural Press, 1996)

- Dovey, K., and Pafka, E., “*The urban density assemblage: Modeling multiple measures*”, in *Urban Design International* 19.1 (Spring 2014): 66-76.
- Jacobs, J., *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (New York, Random House, 1961)
- Mikoleit, A. and Purckhauer, M., *Urban code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City*
- H. Tieben & M.J. Kang , *Magic Carpet – Towards a Community Benefit Plans for Urban Regeneration in Taipei and Hong Kong* (Taipei: Tonshan, 2017).

Sustainability

- Mostafavi, M. and Gareth D., *Ecological Urbanism* (Baden: Lars Muller Publishers, 2010)
- Ng, E., *Designing high-density cities for social and environmental sustainability*. (London; Sterling, VA : Earth- scan, 2010.)

Urban visions and experimental massing

- Fernández, A. and Arpa, J., *Density Projects* (Vitoria-Gasteiz: a+t ediciones, 2008)
- Klanten, R. and L. Feireiss, *Utopia Forever: Vision of Architecture and Urbanism* (Gestalten, 2011) Winy Maas, *Visionary Cities* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2010)
- Maas, W., *Hong Kong Fantasies* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2012)

Government guideline:

[Planning Department – Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines](#)

Schedule

| Studio Activities | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mon Sept. 3 | Studio Introduction Urban Analysis Exercise 1: <i>Urban History, Morphology, Types, Public Space Networks</i> |
| Thu Sept. 6 | Site explorations |
| Mon Sept. 10 | Exercise 1: <i>Urban History, Morphology, Types, Public Space Networks</i> |
| Thu Sept. 13 | <i>Presentation Exercise 1: Urban History, Morphology, Types, Public Space Networks</i> |
| Mon Sept. 17 | Stanford-CUHK <i>Who makes the city and for whom?</i> - Boot Camp Introduction Exercise 2 (SG) morning at CUHK (with D. Paetzold) |
| Thu Sept. 20 | Boot Camp Presentation (Exercise 2) |
| Mon Sept. 24 | Introduction Exercise 3: Walkability Survey (morning) Model building (afternoon) |
| Friday Sept 28 | Exercise 3: Walkability Survey (Desk Critique) |
| Sun Sept. 30 | <i>Junk Trip</i> |
| Mon Oct. 1 | Public Holidays |
| Thu Oct. 4 | Exercise 3: Walkability Survey |
| Mon Oct. 8 | <i>Presentation of exercise 3: Walkability Survey</i> (Monday morning in URBD5732 course) Group Strategy (Afternoon) |
| Thu Oct. 11 | Group Strategy |
| Mon Oct. 15 | <i>Presentation: Group Strategy</i> Start individual projects |
| Thu Oct. 18 | Taiwan Trip Departure to Taipei |
| Sunday Oct. 21 | Taiwan Trip Return to Hong Kong |
| Mon Oct. 22 | <i>Trip debriefing and individual project proposal</i> |
| Thu Oct. 25 | Desk critiques |
| Fri Oct. 26 | Civic Exchange event |
| Mon Oct. 29 | Desk critiques |
| Thu Nov. 1 | Desk critiques |
| Mon Nov. 5 | <i>Design-review</i> |
| Thu Nov. 8 | Desk critiques |
| Sat Nov. 10 | <i>Community Forum - Presentation an discussion of projects</i> |
| Mon Nov. 12 | Desk critiques |
| Thu Nov. 15 | Desk critiques |
| Mon Nov. 19 | Desk critiques |
| Thu Nov. 22 | <i>Pre-final review</i> |
| Mon Nov. 26 | Desk critiques |
| Thu Nov. 29 | Desk critiques |
| Wed Dec. 5 | <i>Final review</i> |
| Mon Dec. 10 | Hand-in Studio Documentation |

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS:

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is required in all courses. For an excused absence, the instructor must be notified and presented with documentation of illness or personal matter. Please note: Three (3) or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students may be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

STUDENT WORK:

Submission of studio documentation in correct and complete format is required of each student. Without submission of the documentation folder no grade will be submitted for the course. This may result in a failing grade for the course and may delay graduation.