

CITY WITHIN THE CITY: Social processes and self-contained communities within polycentric urban agglomerations

2021-2022 2nd Term,
Tuesdays & Fridays, 1:30pm – 6.15pm

Instructors: Assistant Professor Jeroen van Ameijde
 Adjunct Associate Professor Matthew Gevers

Workshop Inputs: Adjunct Associate Professor Daniel Pätzold
 Professor Hendrik Tieben



1. STUDIO BACKGROUND AND AIMS

The Urban Design Studio II explores theories and methodologies around the conceptualisation and development of comprehensive urban design projects based on in-depth research. Continuing our research agenda into the role of neighbourhoods amongst increasingly interconnected urban networks, we study the historic context, precedents and recent developments around the formation of self-sufficient neighbourhoods and communities, in relation to the practice of urban planning and design.

This year, we will focus on the notion of the "City within the City", analysing the tension between

commonly used large-scale plot development models, creating self-contained communities, and the local and regional social processes that lead to vibrant neighbourhoods and social resilience. Using international precedents such as the New Town Movement, Neighbourhood Unit, Factory Towns and Hong Kong's self-contained housing estates, we will reflect on the modular nature of recent urban development projects in the Greater Bay Area, and their limitations or opportunities in supporting social, economic and environmental sustainability.

For the research and design project stage, we will use several 'self-contained' case study sites to analyse social processes such as mixed forms of work, live and recreation, as well as new types of communities in a post-pandemic "new normal". Through critical analysis and data-driven mapping of everyday movement and activity patterns, student teams will identify existing constraints and derive opportunities for new connections, public spaces and infrastructures, and translate these into comprehensive urban design proposals for increased liveability, collaboration and innovation. Through student-led critical discussions and project narratives, reflecting on urban theory and international precedents, the projects' contribution to social and environmental sustainability will be interrogated.

2. STUDIO APPROACH

The studio will begin with a strategic research phase, unpacking the complex theoretical, historic, economic and political models that have influenced the emergence of Hong Kong's 'self-contained' urban neighbourhoods and their specific materialisation. Working in groups, we will focus on different topics relating to infrastructure planning, employment and education, land-use economies, urban environmental performance, community formation, recreation and health. The combined outputs of all groups will form a comprehensive research document to form a shared resource and intellectual framework for the development of studio projects.

The second phase of research work will form the basis of each student's thesis research, culminating in the thesis report developed in Term 3. The start of this process will consist of a combination of literature research and specific analysis methods offered to the studio, focusing on the collection, analysis and visualisation of urban data. Through a library of tools and techniques, students will explore separate subjects such as urban morphology, function mixing, transport and mobility, activity and behavioural patterns. The aim of this stage is to build up an evidence-based set of insights into social processes in urban environments, which will lead to the critical interpretation of data, identification of constraints and opportunities, and the formulation of a conceptual framework for design.

The final phase of the studio will focus on the development of a series of visionary scenarios and pilot schemes for selected sites across Hong Kong, proposing strategic interventions in existing public, private and mixed-use urban areas and exploring the interplay between urban facilities, networks, public spaces and Quality of Life. As a studio, we will aim to critically reflect on the inability of urban planning to shape or predict the detailed qualities of vibrant urban community life, and seek to adapt a time-based and human centric design approach that incorporates the notions of contingency, adaptation and participation. We aim to discuss how investment in new infrastructure, shared facilities and urban spaces can be instrumentalised to create more vibrant, equitable and resilient communities, capable to evolve with future societal and environmental changes.

The studio will be conducted in parallel with Prof. Dan Luo's Master of Urban Design studio at the University of Queensland, Brisbane. Through shared research, tutorials and reviews we will aim to develop a collective body of work, using new technologies in urban analytics and data-driven design to generate insights and speculative interventions into the underlying urban processes that shape our urban environments.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDIO

- To identify and understand how existing urban areas have evolved historically and are currently transforming;
- To explore new opportunities for integrated infrastructure planning to guide the development of more cost-effective and resilient urban and social infrastructure investments over time;
- To develop strategies to introduce or improve neighbourhoods with economic vitality and social and environmental sustainability;
- To propose and develop contextual and considerate urban design solutions, that contribute to increased living quality, social interaction, and economic vitality;
- To create a conceptual design framework, planning proposal and study schemes indicating land use functions, infrastructure systems and neighbourhood qualities;
- To develop an urban design proposal through the potential synergies and integration within its existing context;
- To develop a comprehensive urban design proposal that combines strategic and quantitative urban design measures with appropriate spatial and environmental qualities that support urban communities.
- To propose design strategies that address urban networks at the neighbourhood, city and regional scales during “the new normal”, that balance interconnectivity with local self-sufficiency to promote health and well-being, and economic mobility.

4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing the studio, students will be able to:

- Understand how to organize a sustainable development strategy that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- Understand, map and interpret the urban morphology of a representative part of Hong Kong’s urban fabric;
- Understand the complex relationships between enhancing urban mobility and environmental, economic and social sustainability;
- Learn from key examples of Urban Design;
- Create a comprehensive urban design strategy by learning to work in different scales in the fields of architecture, urban design, and city planning;
- Understand and address contemporary urban issues with focus on development of advanced urban design, presentation and communication skills while addressing key issues and developing context sensitive strategies and designs;
- Determine priorities and strategies to create sustainable urban environments;
- Understand and balance the priorities from different stakeholders including policy makers, end users, etc., to develop urban design strategies.

5. ASSESSMENT SCHEME

- Group Research 1 20%
- Group Research 2 and Design Research Questions (Midterm) 20%

- Final Design Project Development 50%
- Participation 10%

6. COURSE FORMAT

- Studio work
- Site visits to selected 'self-contained' neighbourhoods across Hong Kong
- Invited lectures and seminars by outside experts
- Pinups, reviews and research and design document submissions

7. REQUIRED READINGS

- Gehl, J. (2010) Cities for People. Island Press
- Gehl, J., and Svarre, B. (2013). How to study public life. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Jacobs, J. (1961). The Death and Life of Great American Cities. Random House., New York.
- Larice, M. and Macdonald, E. (2013) The Urban Design Reader. Second edition. Routledge
- Low, S., Simpson, T. and Scheld, S. (2019). Toolkit for the Ethnographic Study of Space (TESS), Public Space Research Group, Center for Human Environments, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- Ng, E. (2010). Designing high-density cities for social and environmental sustainability. London; Sterling, VA: Earthscan.
- Shelton, B, Karakiewicz, J & Kvan, T, (2010). The Making of Hong Kong: From Vertical to Volumetric. Taylor & Francis
- Talen, E. (1999). Sense of Community and Neighbourhood Form: An Assessment of the Social Doctrine of New Urbanism. Urban Studies. 36. 1361-1379. 10.1080/0042098993033.

8. RECOMMENDED READINGS

Mapping and infographics

- Bertin, B., Semiology of Graphics: Diagrams, Networks, Maps, Esri Press (2010)
- McCandless, D. (2009). Information is beautiful. London: Collins.
- Rendgen, Wiedemann, Ciuccarelli, Wurman, Rogers, Holmes, . . . Holmes, Nigel. (2012). Information graphics. Köln: Taschen.
- Tufte, E.R., Envisioning Information, Graphics Press; 1st edition (1990)

Other recommended literature

- Dehaene, M and DeCauter, L (eds) (2008). Heterotopia and the City, Routledge, London
- Amin, A. (2008). Collective Culture and Urban Public Space. City, 12:1, 5-24, DOI: 10.1080/13604810801933495
- Bolchover, J., & Hasdell, P. (2017). Border ecologies: Hong Kong's mainland frontier. Basel: Birkhauser.

- Burgess, R. and Jenks, M. (2002). *Compact Cities*. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Castells, M., Goh, L., and Kwok, R. (1990). *The Shek Kip Mei Syndrome: Economic development and public housing in Hong Kong and Singapore (Studies in society and space; 4)*. (London: Pion).
- Chau, C. S. (1981). High density development Hong Kong as an example, in R. Y. Kwok, and K. S. Pun (Eds.) *Planning in Asia: Present and future*, pp. 11–14. (Hong Kong: Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, University of Hong Kong).
- Chavis, D. M. and Wandersman. A. (1990). Sense of community in the urban environment: a catalyst for participation and community development, *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 18, pp. 55-81.
- Cheng, V. (2010). Understanding density and high density, in E. Ng (Ed.) *Designing high density cities for social and environmental sustainability*, pp. 3–17 (London; Sterling, VA: Earthscan).
- Chow, J. (2018). *Geospatial Analysis of Public Open Space Accessibility in Hong Kong*. Civic Exchange and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Hong Kong
- Chui, E. (2008). Ageing in Place in Hong Kong—Challenges and Opportunities in a Capitalist Chinese City. *Ageing International*, 32(3), 167-182.
- Cuthbert, A. R. (1985). Architecture, society and space—the high-density question re-examined. *Progress in Planning*, 24, 71-160.
- Deng, Y., Chan, E.H.W., and Poon, S.W. (2016). Challenge-driven design for public housing: The case of Hong Kong. *Frontiers of Architectural Research*, 5(2), 213-224.
- Gehl, J. (1987). *Life between buildings: Using public space*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.
- Gou, Z., Xie, X., Lu, Y., and Khoshbakht, M. (2018). Quality of Life (QoL) Survey in Hong Kong: Understanding the Importance of Housing Environment and Needs of Residents from Different Housing Sectors. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(2), 219.
- Harvey, D. (1997). Contested cities: Social process and spatial form, in: N. Jewson, and S. MacGregor (Eds.). *Transforming cities: Contested governance and new spatial divisions* (pp. 19–27). London, New York: Routledge.
- Hillier, B. (1996). *Space is the machine: a configurational theory of architecture*. London: Space Syntax.
- Hillier, B., and Hanson, J. (1984). *The social logic of space*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Hong Kong Housing Authority, Development Construction Division (2011). *Planning, design, and delivery of quality public housing in the new millennium*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Housing Authority.
- Hong Kong Planning Department (1991). *Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines*. Hong Kong: Planning Department, Hong Kong Government.
- Jacobs, A., and Appleyard, D. (1987). Toward an Urban Design Manifesto. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 53(1), 112-120.
- James, L., (2019). *Implications and Application of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in Community Change Initiatives*, Dissertations Abstracts International 81-06A. Valdosta State University. Political Science, 2019.

- Kan, A.W.S. (1978). A Study of Neighbourly Interaction in Public Housing: The Case of Hong Kong, in: Wong, L. Housing in Hong Kong: A multi-disciplinary study (Asian studies series), pp. 160-182 (Hong Kong: Heinemann Educational Books).
- Lai, C. (2018). Open Space Opinion Survey. Civic Exchange and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Hong Kong.
- Lau, K.Y. and Murie, A. (2017) Residualisation and resilience: public housing in Hong Kong, *Housing Studies*, 32:3, 271-295, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2016.1194376
- Lee, C. / Harvard GSD (2016). Common Frameworks.
 - https://issuu.com/gsdharvard/docs/common_frameworks_part1
 - https://issuu.com/gsdharvard/docs/common_frameworks_part2
 - <https://issuu.com/gsdharvard/docs/commonframeworks3>
- Legeby, A. (2013). Patterns of co-presence: Spatial configuration. PhD Dissertation, School of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, 2013.
- Low, S. (2016). *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place*. London, England; New York, New York: Routledge.
- Offenhuber, D., & Ratti, C. (2014). *Decoding the City: Urbanism in the Age of Big Data*. (ebook available via the CUHK library website)
- Ratti, C., & Claudel, M. (2016). *The city of tomorrow: Sensors, networks, hackers, and the future of urban life*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press.
- Saunders, P., Wong, H., and Wong, W.P. (2014). Deprivation and Poverty in Hong Kong. *Social Policy & Administration*, 48(5), 556-575.
- Smart, A. (2006). *The Shek Kip Mei Myth. Squatters, Fires and Colonial Rule in Hong Kong, 1950–1963* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press).
- Strange, C. (2019). *Monotown: Urban dreams brutal imperatives*. San Francisco: Applied Research and Design.
- Tang, W.S., Lee, J.W.Y, Hui, T.W. and Yip, M.K.C. (2019). The “Urban density” question in Hong Kong: From absolute space to social processes. *City, Culture and Society*, 17, 46-53.
- Tuan, Y. F. (1977). *Space and place: The perspective of experience*. U of Minnesota Press.
- Wai, R.C.C. (2014). *The architectural origins of Hong Kong's public housing: The pioneering "Mark" series and its development*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Hong Kong, 2014
- Whyte, W.H. (1980). *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. Conservation Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Yeh, A., and Yuen, B. (2011). *High-Rise Living in Asian Cities* (1. Aufl. ed.). Dordrecht: Springer Science Business Media.
- Yeung, Y.M. and Wong, K.Y., Hong Kong Housing Authority (2003). *Fifty years of public housing in Hong Kong: A golden jubilee review and appraisal*. (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press for the Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies).
- Zheng, W., Shen, G., Wang, H., Lombardi, P. (2015) "Critical issues in spatial distribution of public housing estates and their implications on urban renewal in Hong Kong", *Smart and Sustainable Built Environment*, Vol. 4 Issue: 2, pp.172-187, <https://doi.org/10.1108/SASBE-09-2014-0047>

9. SCHEDULE

Date	Studio Activities
Jan. 3 – 15	<i>MIT IAP 2022 ‘Smart Cities’ Workshop</i>
Tue Jan. 11	Start of Group Research Task 1: Urban History and Theory
Fri Jan. 14	Group Discussions
Tue Jan. 18	Research Tutorials
Fri Jan. 21	<i>Site Visits</i>
Tue Jan. 25	Research Tutorials
Fri Jan. 28	Research Task 1 Pinup
	Start of Group Research Task 2: Data-driven Site Research
Tue Feb. 1	<i>No Class - Spring Festival</i>
Fri Feb. 5	<i>No Class - Spring Festival</i>
Tue Feb. 8	Research Tutorials
Fri Feb. 11	Urban Transport Networks Workshop 1 with Daniel Pätzold
Tue Feb. 15	Research Tutorials
Fri Feb. 18	Research Tutorials
Tue Feb 22	Research Task 2 / Workshop 1 Pinup
Fri Feb. 25	Design Tutorials
Tue Mar. 1	Design Tutorials
Thu Mar. 3	Midterm Review
Tue Mar. 8	Design Tutorials
Fri Mar. 11	Design Tutorials
Tue Mar. 15	Design Tutorials
Fri Mar. 18	Design Tutorials
Tue Mar. 22	Design Pinup
Thu Mar. 24	<i>Midterm Review UQ</i>
Tue Mar. 29	Urban Transport Networks Workshop 2 with Daniel Pätzold*
Fri Apr. 1	Design Tutorials
Tue Apr. 5	<i>No Class - Ching Ming Festival</i>
Fri Apr. 8	Design Tutorials
Tue Apr. 12	Design / Workshop 2 Pinup
Fri Apr. 15	<i>No Class – Easter Holidays</i>
Tue Apr. 19	Design Tutorials*
Fri Apr. 22	Design Tutorials*
Tue Apr. 26	Design Tutorials
Fri Apr. 29	Design Tutorials
Tue May. 3	Design Tutorials
Fri May. 6	Final Review Rehearsals
Sat May. 7	Final Review
Fri May. 13	Hand-In Studio Documentation

10. SAME COURSE OFFERED BEFORE

Yes

11. IMPORTANT NOTES 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 must be complete and correctly formatted. Missing or incomplete submission of the documentation folder will result in the grade for the course being withheld. This will prevent registration for the following term or delay graduation. In addition, a grade deduction of one letter grade will be made.