ARCASIA URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOP/TRAINING   SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

ASPECTS OF CITY DESIGN   **Visiting Emeritus Prof. Fabio Todeschini Feb 2018**

HEADING AND DESCRIPTION	KEY WORDS	EXAMPLES	REFERENCES AND READINGS

A. INTRODUCTION
PART 1
 	
The purpose, content and structure of the course and its relation to other coursework. The main argument and Case Studies.
 	
The course is an exploration into the physical form of cities. Its general purpose is to develop awareness and understanding about the making of cities and about the degree to which they accommodate and celebrate life and living. Its specific purposes are:
• to develop our literacy in urban form in two senses;
  (i). acquire skills in the reading of urban structure,
  (ii). develop literacy in the art of settlement-making and, therefore, to promote proper debate;
• to expand one's sense of possibilities in urban form;
• to develop awareness of the nature of urbanity.
In the process, the role and responsibility of the urbanist in the making of settlement will be explored.
 	
Apart from the above, the course will examine the essential nature of design—synthesis, the imperative of seeing things whole. The need to grasp the fundamental difference between synthesis and analysis. The need for both, but the realisation that the understandings gained thereby are different.
 	
The following two parts of the introduction deal with: a brief survey of the contemporary city form; a comparison of the current situation with some cities of the past.
 	
PART 2
 	
A rapid survey of urban developments of our time, attempting to come to an understanding of the major forces which have shaped recent settlements. The dimensions of change and growth. The ruling notions which order growth.
	• City Form
	• Awareness & Understanding of City-making
	
	• Literacy in reading city Structure and Form
	• Become aware of relevant precedent
	
	• Expand the sense of the possible
	• Nature of Urbanity
	
	• The synoptic view
	  - analysis
	  - synthesis
	• Argument is linear
	• Design is iterative
	
	• Exponential Growth
	• Reaction to the Industrial City
	• Reaction to Laissez-faire
	• Administrative Optimisation
	• Specialisation
	• Atomisation of the City
	• Oversimplification
	• The Dream and its Image
	• Individuality - Mobility
	• Anti-urban - Suburban
		Exponential Growth
		• Graphs: World, Cape Town
		• Aerial Views: NY & LA
		• Plans: London, Philadelphia, etc.
		Specialisation
		• LA & Chicago centres
		• Views of Suburbia
		City as Machine
		• Highway "Spaghetti" Views
		Resource Base
		• Cape Town Views
			Basic References
			• Benevolo, L (1980) The History of the City MIT Press, Cambridge
			• Morris, A E (1979) History of Urban Form, Godwin, London.
			• Mumford, L (1961) The City in History, Secker and Warburg, London.
			• Gutkind, E A (varies) International Urban Development -- series of publications.
			• Bacon, E (1976) Design of Cities, Penguin.
			• Houghton-Evans, Cities: legacy and portent, Lawrence & Wishart Ltd., London.
			• Great Britain : Urban Task Force (c1999) Towards an urban renaissance final report of the UrbanTask Force, London.
			• Conrads, U (1964) Programs and Manifestos on 20th Century Architecture, MIT Press.
			
			Readings
			
			• Mumford, Op. Cit., Chapter 16.
			• Mumford (1964) "The Highway and the City" in The Highway and the City, Mentor Books, NY
			
			.
			
			• Alexander, C (1965) "The City is not a Tree" in Bell & Tyrwhitt (eds) (1972) Human Identity in the Human Environment, Pelican Books.
			• Houghton-Evans, Op. Cit., Skim first few chapters.

A. INTRODUCTION (continued)
PART 3

In contrast to modern cities, some lost qualities of cities of the past.

Images of scale and the nature of space in pre-industrial cities. Operative relationships. People as the basic measure. The city as an Art in which contradictions seem to have been a necessary component of relative efficiency. Qualities of urbanity. Aspects of the lost qualities of city design and settlement-making.

KEY WORDS

- Urbanity
- Overlap
- Necessary Complexity
- City Space
- Continuity
- Uniqueness
- Timeless
- Public/Private
- Secrecy

EXAMPLES

Urban/Rural Relationship
- Cape Town, Assisi, San Gimigniano, Siena, Japanese linear village, Graaff-Reinet, Venice.
- Tower in the park image.

Relationships of Interdependence
- Steinberg cartoon, Jerusalem, Priene

Relation between the Programmatic and the order of Physical Structure
- 1960 Philadelphia Comprehensive Plan, Aerial views of parts of suburbia, Venice, etc.

Relations between the Process of building and the Form
- Dutch New Town and Urbino contrasted.

Concepts of Space and town utilities
- Algiers, Isfahan, Urbino, Montagnana, Milan, Gubbio, etc.

B. EXPLORATION OF RULING IDEAS

HEADING AND DESCRIPTION	KEY WORDS	EXAMPLES	REFERENCES AND READINGS
A survey of the ruling ideas in settlement-making as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution. Exploring intentions and interpretations of intentions. A critical review of the ways of thinking. The dreams explored.	• The Industrial Revolution: conditions of life for the vast majority • Increase of population • Technological developments • Spatial redistribution of population • The speed of transformations • Trends in political thought	Images of industrialisation in Europe: London, Manchester, etc. Alphonse Dore. Engels' analysis of Manchester. Back-to-back housing	• Choay, F (....) The Modern City: Planning in the 19th Century, Studio Vista, London • Benevolo, L (1971) The Origins of Modern Town Planning, MIT Press.
Works and writings of a range of persons have been organised into "bundles of design ideas" as follows **a. Socio-urban constructs**: Owen, Howard, Perry and Stein	• "Components" identified • Technology as Emancipator and Symbol • The "Common Person" and individual rights • Efficiency • Mass Production and Consumption	a. Social Utopias • Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Buckingham, etc. a. Company Towns • New Lanark, Saltaire, Port Sunlight, etc. a. Reform Legislation • Housing Acts, By Laws a. The Garden City Idea • Ebenezer Howard (UK) Letchworth, etc. • Clarence Stein (USA) Radburn, etc.	• Houghton Evans, Op. Cit. • Howard, E (1946 reprint) Garden Cities of Tomorrow, Faber and Faber, London. • Stein, C (1959) Towards New Towns for America, MIT Press.
b. Regionalism: Geddes, McKay, Mumford and McHarg	• Remedial Action • Control of Laissez-faire • Social Constructs • The New Dreams • Utopias	b. Regionalist Thought • Gedde's Valley Section • McKay's Domains, NY Regional Planning Association - Regional Diagram • Mumford's writings • McHarg's Design with Nature	• Geddes, P (1949) Cities in Evolution, William and Norgate, London. • McHarg, I (1971) Design with Nature, Natural History Press, NY.
c. Functionalism-Rationalism: Soria y Mata, Futurists, Constructiovists, Garnier, Wright, Le Corbusier, International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) **d. Reactions**: Team Ten, New Urbanism, Urban Conservation	• Rationality • Machine-Age Reductionism • Order through Analysis • View of life as composed of elements • The Drive for Neatness and Control • The need for complexity • The value of urbanism	c. The Functionalist City • Linear City of Soria y Mata • Industrial City of Tony Garnier • Futurists (Sant'Elia et al.) • Constructivist City ideas: the new container for the new society • Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier • CIAM Charter of 1933 d. The Contemporary Scene	• Wiebenson, D (?1970) Tony Garnier: The Cite Industrielle, Studio Vista, London. • Baynham, R (1960) Theory and Design in the First Machine Age, Architecture Press, London. • Kopp, A (1967) Town and Revolution, Thames and Hudson, London. • Wright, F (1958) The Living City, Mentor Books. • Conrads, U (1964) Programs and Manifestos on 20th Century Architecture, MIT Press.

C.   THE PROCESS OF DESIGN

Design responds to a need for something. The nature of the need is the prime informer of the program.

Idea formulation is a personal and necessary act in order to give meaning to the program, yet Idea is abstract.

Context, outside of which the idea cannot finally take form, gives reality to the idea

NEED
- needs (desire)
- performance
- program

IDEA
- understanding
- insight
- relevance beyond our time
- creative act
- enduring

CONTEXT
- gives reality
- time and place related
- warping agent
- generic and specific

Readings

- Sullivan, L () <u>Kindergarten Chats</u>, see: "Emotional Architecture as compared with intellectual.

- Saint-Exupery, A () <u>Flight to Arras</u>, Pan Books (pp. 128-155).

D.   EXPLORING SOME FUNDAMENTAL, PERFORMANCE-BASED IDEAS

Discovering fundamental and supportive ideas through the organised use of precedent, both local and overseas.

Understanding Order, Structure and Process and their relation to Form.

Exploring the questions: what orders? what structures?

Seeing process as part of context (expanded on in Section E)

Discovering relationships as informants to the achievement of meaningful, relevant and, therefore, efficient living environments.

The urban-rural relation as a positive position, not a romantic idea.

IDEAS

Balance (Meta Idea)

   Ordering principle: Wholeness

- people - cosmos
- people - land
- people - people

Freedom

   Ordering principle: Necessary Constraint

What Structures?
- Geometry
  - point
  - line
  - grid
- Family of things

Indian Mandalas, Jaipur, Tribes of Israel Camp, Classical Chinese town plans, Plans of Beijing, Iranian architecture, Akragas Temple of Hera, Brauron Sanctuary, Delphi, Dier-el-Bahari, Khartoum, Neresheim, Elim, Wupperthal, Mamre, Beijing, Adelaide, New York regional plan, Chinese urban-rural setting, Lucca, Adelaide, Roman Fora, Hadrian's villa, Piazza del Popolo, Paris, Florence, Nancy

Egypt, Mecca, Ishfahan, Gardaia (Algeria), Mitchell's Plain (RSU scheme), Finkelstein (Poland), Appleton-le-moors, Bastides, Savannah, Belhar, Philadelphia, Karlsruhe, Emilia, Egyptian house

- Geddes, <u>Op. Cit</u>.
- Morris, <u>Op. Cit</u>.
- Scully, V (1962) <u>The Earth the Temple and the Gods: Greek Sacred Architecture,</u> Yale Univ. Press.
- Norberg-Schultz, C (1980) <u>Genius Loci; towards a phenomenology of architecture</u>, Academy Editions, London.
- Ardalan N and Baktiar L, (1973), <u>The Sense of Unity : The Sufi Tradition in Persian Architecture</u>, The University of Chicago Press.
- Lynch, Kevin, (1981), <u>A Theory of Good City Form</u>, MIT Press.
- Giurgola, A (1965) "Reflections on Buildings and the City: the realism of the partial vision", <u>Perspecta</u> 9/10.

D. EXPLORING SOME FUNDAMENTAL, PERFORMANCE-BASED IDEAS (continued)

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KEY WORDS

IDEAS

Community

    Ordering principle: Identity

What Structures?
- System of the collective
- Geometry
  - point
  - line
  - grid
- Institutions
  - formal
  - informal

Diversity

    Ordering principle: Necessary
               Complexity

What Structures?
- Geometry
  - point
  - line
  - grid
- Family of things

EXAMPLES

Various views of settlement in Madagascar, Venice, Nepalese village, Jerusalem, Philadelphia plans, David Crane proposals for Philadelphia, Mitchell's Plain (RSU scheme), diagrams from publications of Dewar, Uytenbogaardt and Todeschini, projects of Suzi du Toit, etc.

REFERENCES AND READINGS

- Crane, D (1960) "The Dynamic City" Architectural Design, April, pp. 158-162
- Crane, David A, (1960), "Chandigarh Reconsidered", in American Institute of Architects Journal, May.
- Habraken, J (1982), "Signs of Structures", Spazio e Societa, Sept., 18, pp. 64-83.
- Dewar, D and Uytenbogaardt, R et al (1978) Housing: A Comparative Evaluation of Urbanism in Cape Town, UPRU, UCT.
- Dewar, D and Uytenbogaardt, R (1991) South African Cities: A Manifesto for Change, UPRU UCT.
- Dewar, D and Uytenbogaardt, R (1995) Creating Vibrant Urban Places to Live: A Primer, New Housing Company, Cape Town.
- Uytenbogaardt, R, D Dewar and F Todeschini (1997) final draft Chapter 3 "A Philosophic Approach To Settlement Making" and Chapter 4 "Guidelines to Settlement-Making", being revisions of Guidelines For The Provision Of Engineering Services And Amenities In Residential Townships, contract research for the CSIR
- Alexander, C Op. Cit.
- Chermayeff, S and A Tzonis (1971) Shape of Community: Realization of Human Potential, Penguin Books.
- Krier, Rob, (1984), Urban Space (Stadtraum), translated by Czechowski, C., Academy Editions.

D. EXPLORING SOME FUNDAMENTAL, PERFORMANCE-BASED IDEAS (continued)

Discovering fundamental and supportive ideas through the organised use of precedent, both local and overseas.

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IDEAS

Interdependence

   Ordering principle: Overlap

What Structures?
• Geometry
   • point
   • line
   • grid
• Clarity of Structure
• Structural variation over a short distance

Equity

   Ordering principle: Fair
                              Access

What Structures?
• Geometry

EXAMPLES

Piazza di Spagna Rome, Central Park NY, Abidjan Ivory Coast, Parade Cape Town, Hagia Sophia Istanbul, Las Ramblas Barcelona, Carcassone, Albi, Parthenon, Grahamstown, Seattle, Cape urban designs, Philadelphia, Mitchell's Plain, Boston, English linear villages, District Six, Philadelphia Comprehensive Plan, Isfahan, Nolli plan of Rome, Milton Keynes.

REFERENCES AND READINGS

• Crane, D (1960) Ops. Cit.
• Habraken, J (1982) Op. Cit.
• Dewar, D and Uytenbogaardt, R Ops. Cit.
• Alexander, C Op. Cit.
• Smith, M (1980) The City and Social Theory, Blackwell, Oxford.
• Shane, Grahame, (1982), "The Street in the Twentieth Century : three conferences ; London (1910), Athens (1933), Hoddeston (1951)", in Cornell Architectural Journal, edited by Middleton, D B, Cornell University : Department of Architecture, Distributed by Rizzoli, NY, 2, pp. 20-41, DA 711 4 KRIE.

HEADING AND DESCRIPTION	KEY WORDS	EXAMPLES	REFERENCES AND READINGS

E.   CONTEXTS

That which gives reality to idea. the concept of <u>warp</u>. Time and Place: the continuum of people and land.

<u>Time</u> expanded - development of people - awareness - a will to be - political constructs and innovation - people still the measure. The need for sensitivity and creativity.

<u>Place</u> - the terrestrial influence and the response to the I-Thou, I-it relationships.

The idea as not compromised but enriched by context.

The concepts of generic and specific thus expanded.

- Superimposition
  - Classical approach
- Subtle response
  - Romantic approach
- Understanding the ephemeral
  - that which is readily changed
- Understanding the timeless
- Uniqueness of Place
- The 'placeness' of Place
- Vernacular

Hanan China, Mid-West USA,Caledon area and South coast plateau RSA, Temple of Segesta, Greek landscape, Wupperthal, northern Japan, Hydrebad Sind, Chinese 'Loes' settlements, Dogon and other West African settlements, Sudd settlements, Polynesia, Upper Volta, Morocco, Aediculae, Villa Savoye, Renaissance Ideal City, Alberobello, Carcassonne, Falling Waters and Robie Houses of FLW, Bastides of SW France, San Marco Venice, Adelaide Australia.

- Rudofsky, B (1965) <u>Architecture Without Architects</u>, Museum of Modern Art, NY.
- Norberg-Schultz <u>Op. Cit</u>.
- Alexander, C (1979) <u>The Timeless Way of Building</u>, Oxford University Press.
- Gutkind, E (1956) "Our World from the Air: Conflicts and Adaptations", in Thomas, W <u>Man's .Role in Changing the Face of the Earth</u>, Chicago Univ. Press.
- Jacobs, A (1993) <u>Great Streets</u>, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

F.   RETURN TO THE PROBLEM OF NUMBER AND SCALE

Recognising that no one single person can design a city or city place. Understanding one's role and place within the process.

The idea of the partial view - tied to the ideas of constraint and structure.

Seeing process as a necessary ally to quality and satisfaction. Recognising the creativity of all. Knowing where and when to put the necessary effort.

What is the meaning of this in under-development?

- The idea of the partial view

- The idea of necessary constraint

- The idea of enabling structure

- The importance of institutions and public space

Milan, Nancy, English Medieval town, Philadelphia and Buffalo Crane schemes, Mitchell's Plain (RSU), Finkelstein Poland, Boston, Monpazier, Beijing, Graaff-Reinet, Adelaide, New York Regional Plan, Jerusalem, Belhar (RSU), Calcata.

- Crane, D (1960) <u>Ops. Cit</u>.
- Habraken, J (1982) <u>Op. Cit</u>.
- Giurgola, A <u>Op. Cit.</u>
- Dewar, D and Uytenbogaardt, R <u>Ops. Cit.</u>
- Alexander, C <u>Op. Cit.</u>
- Cape Town Planning and Economic Directorate, (1999), <u>City of Cape Town Municipal Spatial Development Framework</u>, Cape Town.
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