USC School of Architecture

PRINCIPLES OF SPATIAL DESIGN II
ARCH 403 | 4 units | Fall 2017
Watt Hall (WAH) B7
Tue 9:00 – 12:20

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Office Hours:	By appointment

Looking northwest towards the San Gabriel Mountains with a view of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in the foreground.
(Photo: Ken Lund)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ARCH 403 focuses on developing advanced urban spatial design solutions set within contemporary urban conditions, with a particular emphasis on ecology, public space, neighborhoods, and districts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will build upon the skills acquired in ARCH 303: PRINCIPLES OF SPATIAL DESIGN I furthering the ability of students to think spatially, understand urban form, and design at multiple scales. The course also aims to introduce students to methods of research and analysis, representational techniques, and speculative approaches that will serve as tools for interpreting, visualizing, and realizing urban places. Students will not only investigate physical conditions but also become familiar with the less tangible aspects of our urban environment – including but not limited to social, cultural, and economic issues – and how they effect spatial design. Students will hone their skills through a series of tasks that will culminate in the design of a speculative project in a real urban context.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. READING ASSIGNMENTS & DISCUSSIONS

Reading assignments are provided as a means to spark new ideas and to spur discussion regarding topics relevant to our investigation. Some may be challenging as they may introduce you to concepts that are completely foreign to you, but they are meant to be interesting and hopefully, even provocative.

All students will be expected to participate in the discussion. We are a small class. Our discussions will only be as lively and productive as each of our discussants. Please come to class prepared.

Reading assignments will be made available on Blackboard. Written reading responses will be due at the beginning of class.

II. TASKS

Utilizing historical information, maps, statistical data, and literary sources (basically, any and all information available), students will document, analyze, interpret, and speculate on an urbanized area within the United States. Each student will be responsible for producing a set of documentation for an urban phenomenon from one of the five spatial themes below:

	SPATIAL THEMES	URBAN PHENOMENA
1.	Residential	*single-family housing, senior housing, low-income housing*
2.	Civic	*schools, parks, libraries*
3.	Commercial	*shopping centers, golf courses, gas stations*
4.	Ecological	*wetlands & waterways, conservation land*
5.	Infrastructural	*electricity, waste & recycling, roadways, railways*

Each student will explore their URBAN PHENOMENON in a series of tasks. Each task will focus on a specific scale – region, district, and site. Students will present their findings to the entire class at the completion of each task.

Task 1A / Region:	THE GENERIC
Task 1B / Region:	THE DIACHRONC
Task 2 / District:	THE SYNCHRONIC
Task 3 / Site:	THE SPECIFIC

III. SKETCHBOOK

In *Drawing and Perceiving*, Doug Cooper, an artist and educator, states that drawing is a "process of intense interaction with the visual world." Through the act of drawing, we can turn what we see into knowledge and conversely, turn what exists only within our imagination into something real. Although architects and designers today produce visual representations of much of their work in the computer, drawing by hand is still an efficient and effective means by which we can document what we see or have seen (drawing as evidence) and communicate ideas (drawing as expression of intent).

For this course, the purpose of keeping a sketchbook is to:

1. improve proficiency in documenting existing conditions in the field through sketching
2. hone not only your skills in the act of hand drawing but also in the act of seeing and perceiving
3. maintain a single, well-organized repository of your design process though sketches, design diagrams, graphic analyses, notes, etc.

The sketchbook should also include lecture notes and any other visual materials related to this course. Entries should be labeled and dated in a clear and consistent manner not only for the sake of receiving credit for this course but also for yourself. What you document this semester may prove useful to you in the future.

IV. PORTFOLIO

Each student is required to compile all of the completed TASKS into a single portfolio. The content should be thoughtfully presented in a graphic lay-out that is uncluttered and well-organized.

Portfolios will be submitted both digitally and as a hard copy BEFORE the time of our scheduled final exam. Failure to submit the portfolio on time is equivalent to not showing up to a final exam. There will be no exceptions.

V. EVALUATION AND GRADING

Final grade evaluations will be based on the following breakdown:

Participation	10%
Reading Responses	10%
Task 1A & 1B	30%
Task 2	15%
Task 3	15%
Sketchbook	10%
Portfolio	10%

Work will be evaluated periodically so that students have an indication of their progress. Unsatisfactory performance warnings will be issued to students whose work does not meet minimum requirements.

A minimum grade of 'C' is required for successful completion of the course and completion of the Geo Design studio sequence. Consult University polices for IN (incomplete) grades and deadlines for withdrawal ('W' grade).

University guidelines on plagiarism pertain to original design work. Students are expected to do all of their own design and presentation work. Substantial assistance in the form of model construction and drawing preparation, or deliberate appropriation of the design work of others will be considered non-original work and will be treated as plagiarism. See "Statement on Academic Integrity" below for more information.

VI. COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The university calculates course units based not only on weekly class hours but also on the number of hours each student spends on coursework outside of class. For a four-unit course the university expects each student to spend a minimum of eight hours each week on coursework. Please utilize this time to complete reading assignments, develop ideas and questions, gather research materials, sketch, design, etc. Discussions and pin-ups are meant to be a dialogue. Please come to each class prepared and ready to participate.

Smartphone use is prohibited during class.
Internet use is strongly discouraged during class unless it is necessary for course-related research.

USC & SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE POLICIES

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE ATTENDANCE POLICY

A student may miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (in this case, one *excused* absence is permitted) without directly affecting the student's grade and ability to complete the course. An excused absence is a confirmed personal illness, family emergency, or religious holiday. For *each* absence over the allowed number, your grade can be lowered by 1/3-letter grade. If additional absences are required for a personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason/religious observance, you must discuss the situation with your faculty member immediately.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid class for a long bathroom/water break) for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your faculty member as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
PLAGIARISM IS GROUNDS FOR FAILING THIS COURSE
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus,* the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
The University of Southern California recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the add/drop date for registration. After the add/drop date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE
The School of Architecture has adopted the 2010 Initiative for Sustainability. Solutions to design problems must engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.