USC School of Architecture

Course Arch 538 Planting Design
Units: 2
Fall 2021 Tuesdays from 11 to 12:50 pm Pacific Time
Office hours or meetings with students at other times

Location: Harris Hall Room 115A

Instructor: Esther Margulies ASLA
Office: Watt Room 339
Office Hours: As Required. Please contact via email to set up
Contact Info: Email: emarguli@usc.edu
IT Assistance: https://itservices.usc.edu/students/

'… the tension in which nature now exists; its continued disappearance in the wild; its expanded potential in urban and suburban areas. Wild spaces may be shrinking, but nature still exists.

The front lines of the battle for nature are not in the Amazon rain forest or the Alaskan wilderness; the front lines are in our backyards, medians, parking lots, and elementary schools. The ecological warriors of the future won't just be scientists and engineers, but gardeners, horticulturalists, land managers, landscape architects, transportation department staff, elementary school teachers and community association board members. '

Planting in a Post- Wild World by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West

Course Description

This course will provide practical tools and theory to build methodologies in planting design with a focus on the cultural and environmental qualities of designed plant communities . Lectures, field trips and assignments will examine and illustrate principles and methods of planting design incorporating elements of spatial structure, vegetation performance potential, cultural values, ornamental qualities and technical issues related to installation and maintenance.

Planting design is the nexus of the arts, science and social aspects of landscape design. It requires multifaceted decisions to assess site, climate, ecological, cultural and program requirements. The development of planting design with appropriate vegetation is a constantly evolving sub discipline in landscape architecture that has evolved based on available technology, resources and climate conditions. Students in this course will develop resources to design planting in response to climate change, and develop an understanding of cultural uses of plants in Southern California.

Lectures by the instructor will provide practical tools for developing site analysis and planting design. Field trips and guest lectures will discuss traditional and contemporary design principles focusing on current practice and social justice issues.

Learning Objectives

- Using site assessment data and tools develop site analysis documentation specifically for planting design purposes.

- Develop appropriate plant palettes based on site conditions, project program and additional objectives.

- Create planting design and documentation that utilizes vegetation to create well defined outdoor spaces, provide public health benefits and cultural value.

   Prerequisite(s): Arch 537 or Permission of the Instructor

Preliminary list of Classes and Topics

August 24 Intro and the case for thinking locally and globally

Plant Data bases and resources

Climate ready plant selection and design

Species for the next Century

Hotter
Drier
More Crowded

Discussion:

What do students want to investigate in this class?   What topics are of interest or require further study? How can they be integrated into the framework of the syllabus?

August 31 Formal Spatial Conventions of Planting Design - European and American

Reading: Raxworthy, Julian, Overgrown Chapters 2 and 3
Plants, function, space and technology – Europe

Plants , space and architecture - American Modernism

Discussion:
How do formal conventions in planting design affect the experience and meaning of outdoor space?

Sept 7 - Cultural values in Planting Design – This class meeting needs to be scheduled at an alternative time and day TBD

Readings : Anderson, M. Kat, Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources

Reading Beattie *Imperial Landscapes of Health: Place, Plants and People between India and Australia, 1800s–1900s, Health & History,* 2012. 14/1

Colonial Landscapes and Indigenous traditions

Australia
Africa
India
Indigenous California Landscapes

Discussion:
What is does de-colonization of planting design entail?

September 14 – Planting design communication methods and software

Plan drawings
Models
Sketches
Land fx Software – a plug in for Auto CAD

Field Trip - Interpretive Gardens - Visit to MNH Garden

Assignment – Field Notes summarizing specific and unique characteristics and value of planting design at this site.

September 21 - Planting Design – Contemporary Trends with a critical eye

Field Trip – Platform and Culver City Steps Projects Culver City

Assignment – Field Notes summarizing specific and unique characteristics and value of planting design at this site.

September 28 – Interpreting the Tongva Interpretive Landscape

Field Trip: Kuruvungna Springs West LA

Assignment – Mapping of existing conditions and vegetation.

October 5- Class session research and discussion on approaches to designing an indigenous cultural – landscape.

October 12 Mid Term Presentation and Guest Lecture

Mid Term Group Project Due Indigenous Interpretive Planting Design – presentation

Guest lecture Maria Villalobos of Columbia University and Dark Matter University - South American Contemporary Landscape Design

October 19 - Designed Plant Communities and Planting Design in South America

Reading Assignment – Rainer and West Planting in a Post Wild Word
Guest Maria Vilalobos Botanical City
 Maria studied architecture at the Universidad Rafael Urdaneta, in Maracaibo Venezuela. In 2017, Carla Urbina and Maria received the National Award of Venezuela's Architecture Biennale for their project: Botanical Urban Landscapes: Lessons from Roberto Burle Marx's Botanical Garden in Maracaibo, Venezuela. It was the first time that a Landscape Architecture Project and women received such honor.

October 26 – Designing the Urban Forest

Lecture and discussion on urban forestry data resources, climate adaptation value and species selection.

November 2 Intersections of public health and planting design

Field Trip - Stoneview Nature Center – Native and Acclimated planting design

Assignment – Field Notes summarizing specific and unique characteristics and value of planting design at this site.

Lecture at Stoneview

Plants can be poisonous, prickly, allergenic, wildfire fuel and invasive. Examination of policies and practices to avoid illness, death, allergies and to reduce wildfire danger

November 9 – Mapping landscape typologies on the USC Campus

Identify and describe the planting and landscape typologies on the USC University Park Campus

Field Visit – Inventory campus planting typologies

Assignment – Produce diagram illustrating existing campus landscape typologies

November 16 – Designing a plant communities strategy for the USC UP Campus

Develop site analysis including preliminary inventory of site topography, hydrology, soils and open space program.

November 23 – Workshop on Designing with Plant Communities

Development of planting palette and design for specific campus spaces

November 30 – Final Workshop on UPC Planting Design

In class work on planting design and presentation techniques

To Be Scheduled - Final Project Presentation - Campus Sustainability Group/Office

Assignments

This course will include two group assignments that will serve as the mid term and final projects. Field notes recording observations and a critical review of each field trip will required to be turned in on Blackboard.
All readings must be completed before the class meeting in which they have been assigned.

Mid Term Assignment – Kuruvungna Springs Interpretive Garden Design
The class will participate in a tour led by representatives of the Tongva tribe who have been working on preservation and restoration of the site. Each group will perform research on the site and local ethnobotanical resources in order to develop site analysis documentation and a proposed planting scheme for a portion of the site.

Final Assignment – USC UPC Campus Landscape Typologies
The class will analyze and document current planting typologies of the USC UPC campus. Each group will prepare a proposal for conceptual planting design for multiple typologies based on the use, climate conditions, habitat value or other value provided by vegetation.

Course Notes
Students will be expected to utilize in person site observations, site documentation, research, simple physical modelling and spatial design skills.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
Students will utilize hand sketching, Adobe Suite, Auto Cad, Land Fx and simple physical modelling.   If students have proficiency with digital modelling they may use them as an alternative.

USC technology rental program
We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please submit an application. The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

Course Expenses
Students are expected to attend all field trips. Transportation will be required to visit 3 of the sites which are off campus. The instructor will work with students to arrange car pools if requested.

USC Technology Support Links
Zoom information for students
Blackboard help for students
Software available to USC Campus

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
All readings will be supplied on line posted on Blackboard or on a Class Google Drive folder.

Grading
Individual work is expected to be completed by students per the University academic conduct policies. Group work requires an equal level of effort by all group members. Students will provide a peer review of the group work and be evaluated on their contributions to the group products. Students are expected to spend 4 hours of time per week on homework, reading or other preparation for class.

Grading Breakdown

Field Notes - 4 Field Visits	20%
Mid Term Assignment	25%
Campus Typologies Inventory	20%
Final Assignment	25%
Class Participation	10%

Assignment Submission Policy
Assignments will need to be submitted on Blackboard. Late assignments will have grade reductions of 1/3 grade per day late.

Additional Policies

All students will be expected to attend class under the policies of the School of Architecture. https://drive.google.com/open?id=18d7XLQRSiJmUXV8_8yw1wgzKNKXiq6XW&authuser=emarguli%40usc.edu&usp=drive_fs

- ▪ Students will attend all classes, field trips and work effectively in groups.

Preliminary Bibliography

Anderson MK. *Tending the Wild : Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources.* 1st ed. University of California Press; 2005.

Beardsley, John Editor, Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC. 2016

Beattie J. Imperial Landscapes of Health: Place, Plants and People between India and Australia, 1800s–1900s. *Health and history*. 2012;14(1):100-120. doi:10.5401/healthhist.14.1.0100

Joyce, David, The Perfect Plant, Stewart , Tabori and Chang, NY, NY 1998

Mao, Selena, Planting Resilience, Identifying Climate Resilient Tree Species and Increasing Their Presence in Los Angeles' Urban Forest, Treepeople, July 2021

McPherson, Gregory, Berry, Alison, Van Doorn, Natalie, *Performance testing to identify climate-ready trees,* Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, November 2017

Moore CW, Mitchell WJ, Turnbull W. The Poetics of Gardens . MIT Press, 1988

Rainer T, West C. Planting in a Post-Wild World : Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes . First edition. Timber Press

Raxworthy J. Overgrown : Practices Between Landscape Architecture & Gardening . The MIT Press, 2018

Rogers Elizabeth Barlow. *Landscape Design : a Cultural and Architectural History* . Harry N. Abrams; 2001.

Rose, James, Creative Gardens, Reinhold   Publishing, New York, NY, 1958

Rubin G, Warren L. *The California Native Landscape : the Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance* . Timber Press; 2013.

Sunset, S*unset Western Garden Book* . 6th ed., completely rev. and updated. Sunset Publishing Corporation, 1995

Vogt, Benjamin, A New Garden Ethic , New Society Publishers, BC, Canada, 2017

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:
Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See

additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health
phone number (213) 740-9355
On call 24/7
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Phone number 1 (800) 273-8255
On call 24/7
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)
Phone Number (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours
On call 24/7
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

USC Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX
Phone number (213) 740-5086
Title IX Office (213) 821-8298
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment
Phone number (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Phone number (213) 740-0776
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention
Phone number (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC
Phone number (213) 740-2101
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency
UPC phone number (213) 740-4321
HSC phone number (323) 442-1000
On call 24/7
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety
UPC phone number (213) 740-6000
HSC phone number (323) 442-1200
On call 24/7
Non-emergency assistance or info