Course Introduction

Central to any informed design response is critical analysis of both the design site and the design program. For landscape architects the defined site is, necessarily, a component of a much larger socio-ecological whole. This means that landscape architects are charged with understanding the narrow interior limits and controls of a particular site, but also the complex relationship that the site has with its cultural, economic, infrastructural, and ecological context. Having understood a site to the best of our ability, the landscape architect is also charged with authoring a design response to a desired program. Landscape program can be situated within a variety of types and the cultural morphologies associated with those types (street, garden, plaza, park, campus, neighborhood). Thus, in order to author an informed design response, one must also understand the programmatic type relative morphological expectation. We understand these types and their associated (and potential) morphologies through the analysis of significant precedents. Therefore, this class seeks to introduce critical concepts and disciplinary techniques in the service of site and precedent analysis. The course is divided into several projects of different site, scale and type. The class thus ask students to actively tackle site analysis, typological and morphological analysis for a variety of site and programmatic types -- this is done in the service of authoring a compelling design response for each.

Course Objectives

This course aims to introduce you to methods of site analysis and site design that allow a more critical approach to the built environment. To that end, projects in this course will be divided into three mutually reinforcing parts.

1) Research
2) Inventory and Analysis
3) Design Response
In this course students should learn:
- Critical tools for site investigation, inventory.
- An ability to critically analyze a site for design and program potential.
- Methods of Landscape Architectural design process.
- Basic visual communication techniques and conventions for Landscape Architects.

Reviews

Reviews are an essential part of any design education. They not only provide you with critical outside feedback concerning your project but also give you the opportunity to present your work in a public setting. Juries will include faculty from within the Knowlton School, local professionals, visiting faculty, and visiting professionals. You are expected to attend all reviews. Missing or skipping a review is considered a failure to complete that project and will result in the loss of all credit for the project under review. Furthermore, you are expected to attend and listen during your classmate’s reviews -- this is a group effort. Leaving reviews early, talking, socializing, or being disruptive during reviews is strongly discouraged. If you are observed engaging in such behavior you will receive a 10% reduction in your grade for that project.

KSA Lecture series

Our class time overlaps with the KSA lecture series. This mean that every Wednesday at 5:30 we will go, as a class, to the weekly KSA lecture. You are expected to stay at the lecture. If you need to leave at 6:15 in order to reach another class, please excuse yourself quietly.

Readings

Readings have been culled from a number of sources and are intended to reinforce particular concepts covered in lecture and/or to broaden students thinking on the present design project. Readings will be made available by course reserve. See assignment project handout for details. Readings have been drawn from:


My Expectations

In three years you will graduate and enter the work force as a professional. Therefore, the expectation of this class is that you will conduct yourself in a professional manner. To conduct one's self in a professional manner means that you will:

- Arrive at class on time and prepared to work.
- Have the materials that you need in order to work or take notes during class.
- Use studio time to work, not socialize.
- Turn assignments in on time, and complete to the greatest degree of your ability.
- Respect your instructors.
- Respect your classmates and peers.
- Respect your jurors and other invited guests.
- Respect the facilities that you have been given to work in.
- Do not skip class.
- Notify me as soon as possible in the event that you need to miss class.
- Take initiative, do more than you are asked to, impress us.
- Express your opinion and participate in class discussions
- Be engaged in what you are doing (read magazines and blogs, join professional societies and clubs).

Additionally, be aware that you are embarking on a career as a professional designer. As such you are expected to conduct yourself in a designerly fashion. This means that you will:

- Take the utmost pride in all of your work.
- Work hard.
- Keep an open mind.
- Take chances.
- Be willing to step outside of your comfort zone.
- Consider new ideas.
- Be creative.
- Take intelligent criticism.
- Deliver intelligent criticism.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, for the entire scheduled time, and to be actively working on LARCH 2920 assignments while in class. Excuses will be granted only for serious illness, family emergencies or other circumstances by approval of the instructor or section head. Permission must be received from the instructor prior to missing a class or submitting late work. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade. No exceptions. Attendance will be taken in every class.

Grade Breakdown

Grades for this course are based on student performance relative to the instructor's expectations and to the performance of other students enrolled in the class. Students are evaluated at the completion of each project. Evaluations are based on the following ratings with plus and minus qualifications:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Poor</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>Failure</td>
<td>E</td>
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An incomplete can be given only if a student is determined by the instructors to have successfully completed at least half of the studio assignments by the end of the final day of class. To make up the incomplete, all work must be submitted in a manner agreed between the instructors and the student and according to OSU academic guidelines.
This course is graded out of 1000 points.

- Project One: 250 points
- Project Two: 100 points
- Project Three: 650 points

You will receive grades after each project is completed.

N. B. Instructors will be meeting with you on a daily basis in order to discuss your progress and what you will need to do in order to have a successful project --- you should be able to infer intermediate progress from these conversations. **If you are ever unsure of your standing in the class please make an appointment with your primary instructor for the project in order to discuss your progress.**

The course instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus, schedule and assignments as needed.

**Student Conduct**

Students are required to adhere to all codes and academic policies of The Ohio State University and the Knowlton School of Architecture. In particular, plagiarism (the use of the ideas, words or works of intellectual content of another person as if they are one's own or without crediting the source) is strictly forbidden.

The Student Code of Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp) defines academic misconduct as: any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process. All students are required to review the code and understand the implications of a code violation. If there is any suspicion of academic misconduct, the faculty member/instructor will report the alleged violation to the section head and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html) for investigation and any further action.

Sexual Harassment: O.S.U.'s Sexual Harassment policy, which applies to all faculty, staff, and students, includes lewd remarks and inappropriate comments made in the studio environment, classroom, and computer labs as well as the display of inappropriate sexually oriented materials in a location where others can see it. Students can file a complaint by contacting Student Judicial Affairs at 292-0748. Sanctions include reprimand, suspension, and dismissal from the University.

Students with Disabilities: If a student requires accommodation for a disability, he or she should immediately arrange an appointment with the professors and the Office for Disability Services. At the appointment, the professors, disability counselors, and student can discuss the course format, anticipate needs and decide upon accommodations. Professors rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. The following items are prohibited in Knowlton Hall: non-KSA furniture, liquor, weapons, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, pets, spray paints, foam cutter wands, welding devices, heat guns, and any flame or gaseous liquid device.

The following safety compliances must be observed: electrical power cords cannot be connected in a series or extend over traffic areas; fire extinguishers must remain accessible and in full view; access to stairwells, corridors, and aisles must maintain a 44" clear width and handrails must be unobstructed. Building surfaces cannot be marked, anchored to, or penetrated.

Installations may not occur in any part of the building except by permission of the KSA Building Coordinator. Power tools are restricted to the shop except when permission is granted by the KSA Building Coordinator. Loud noise is forbidden. Graffiti and vandalism are grounds for disciplinary action.
Student Resources

If you need an accommodation related to a disability, you should contact the Office for Disability Services or the ADA Coordinator's Office for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Your needs and potential accommodations will be considered relative to the course format. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, you are encouraged to do so.

ADA Coordinator's Office: http://ada.osu.edu
Office for Disability Services: http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/
(614) 292-3307 | Fax: (614) 292-4190 | TDD: (614) 292-0901

Other resources for students can be found at: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu.

Course Material Requirements

These materials will be required for every future studio. If you take care of them you won't need to buy them again. You are expected to have your materials in studio. For this course you will need:

Materials check-list:
- Cutting mat
- T-square
- Cork backed straight edge (not the same as your t-square)
- Architectural scale
- Engineering scale
- 30/60 triangle
- 45/45 triangle (or adjustable triangle)
- Set of art pens (Micron or Sakura) (005, 01, 03, 05)
- Set of pencils of varying lead weight (2H, HB, 2B, 4B, B)
- Drafting pencil or lead holder
- X-acto knife (DO NOT BUY AN OLFA BLADE OR BOX CUTTER -- THESE ARE NOT THE SAME THINGS)
- Pack of 100 x-acto blades
- Clear push pins (you will need lots and lots of these)
- Scissors
- Sobo (fabric glue)
- Set of colored pencils (nice to have a range of colors)
- Sketch book (5x9 minimum)
- Roll or pad of trace paper white or yellow (18")
- Roll or pad of design vellum (24")
- High polymer eraser
- Pencil sharpener (buy a cheap one. Non electric.)
- Tool box (this should be large enough to store all of your small odds and ends -- pencils, pens, erasers, glue, knives, scissors, scales, etc. Best to buy at a hardware store Lowes, Home Depot, etc.)

* Please be aware that additional building/modeling materials will become necessary as per your individual designs.

Most of these materials can be purchased at any art supply store:
Art supply stores in town:

**Recommended:**

**Utrecht: Columbus**
612 North High Street  
Columbus 43215  
Phone: (614) 224-7708  
Fax: (614) 224-7709

**Other:**

**Long's Barnes and Noble**
1598 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43210  
South Campus Gateway  
(614) 247-2000

**Blick Art Materials**
6486 Sawmill Road  
Columbus, OH 43235  
(614) 792-1900