

USC ARCHITECTURE

Centre d'Etude d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme
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ARCH 424 - FIELD STUDIES IN URBANISM

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SYLLABUS

PEDAGOGICAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As a compliment to ARCH 425,426, ARCH 424 will concentrate on urban spaces including parks, plazas and urban redevelopment projects. The field study of these urban spaces also provides an opportunity to understand the complex role of the architect-planner in the designing of urban spaces. These investigations will employ analytical methods, representational techniques, and speculative inquiry into the fundamental spatial and infra-structural elements of the city. Through the recording of histories and the evolution of a large-scale public space one deciphers the physical and psychological conditions that define a place. This investigation allows one to develop an awareness as well as appreciate the complex relationship between a city, its inhabitants and the spaces that facilitate a multitude of events and activities. Your research will be generated through the crafting of maps, plans/sections/elevations, diagrams, computer generated models, photo documentation and text.

The course will be divided into three main bodies of investigation and will be discussed in the following order:

1. **Urban History/Development** – In this initial phase we will discuss the various chain of historic events and technical developments that have influenced cities and public spaces. This portion of your investigation will include specific issues of physical character/quality of spaces, scales and textures. Lastly, we will explore how urban rituals and events reconfigure public space as people's habits and tendencies change over time. Keep in mind the political, social and economic circumstances that define, influence and distinguish the era?
2. **Cultural/Theoretical Context** – This second phase will situate the urban space within the cultural context, Our inquiry will include parallel discussions about the influence of philosophy, art, cinema and other forms of cultural expression.
3. **The Architect(s)** – We will look at recurring themes utilized by the architect. We will investigate the working methods of the architect and those issues that best define his practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION

This course will rely principally on fieldtrips, class discussions and research photo documentation in order to developing a body of information and method of critique. The fieldtrips will provide an opportunity for firsthand observation and documentation of relationships between the buildings and their context. Students will be challenged to articulate the differences between conventional construction and the analysis of the specific context, space, organization and tectonics. The final product will be manifested in the form of a formal presentation with slides and a booklet that documents the breath of your research.

Verbal Presentation Accompanied by Slides	50%
Course Participation	10%
Final Drawings + Diagrams Booklet	30%
Outline, Presentation Draft, Bibliography	10%

The course will meet twice weekly for two hours