
USP 183GS: INTERNATIONAL URBAN DESIGN PRACTICUM

Instructor Information

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Class days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays (times vary)

Excursion day: Thursdays (all day)

office hours: by appointment



Amsterdam street life

Course Overview and Objective

This course will introduce the student to the theory and practice of urban design in a global setting. There is an emphasis on the built environment, and how it is created and shaped through the lens of the city of Amsterdam. The studio course will focus on the study of public space. We will review Jan Gehl's influential book *Life Between Buildings* published in Danish in 1971, with the first English translation in 1987. Gehl is a Danish architect and urban designer practicing in the Netherlands whose career has focused on improving the quality of urban life by re-orienting city design towards the pedestrian and cyclist. Students will engage in hands-on exercises using Gehl's systematic approach to document public space and observe daily life.

Students will analyze public space and public life in Amsterdam, with field trips to Rotterdam, Utrecht, and Groningen. These cities in the Netherlands are the ideal locations to conduct outdoor urban labs. Students will explore different tools and techniques to observe and critique the city. This course is taught in a studio-based environment that uses real sites. Students will engage in activities that analyze: arrangement of buildings to the street, relationships between buildings, connection of buildings to open space, building form and typology, scale, and the public realm. During walking tours, field trips and excursions students will test urban design principles covered in class.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this studio course, students will be able to answer these questions:

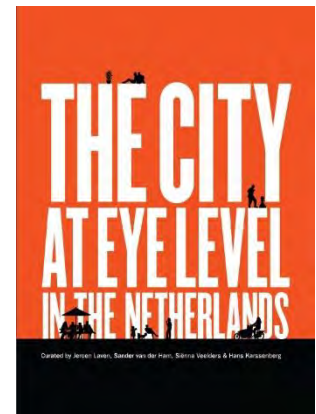
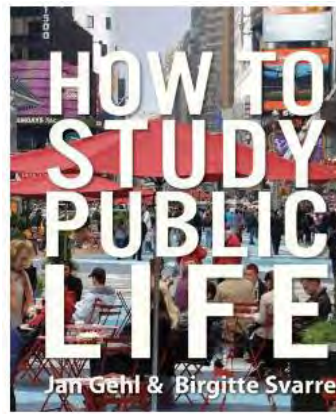
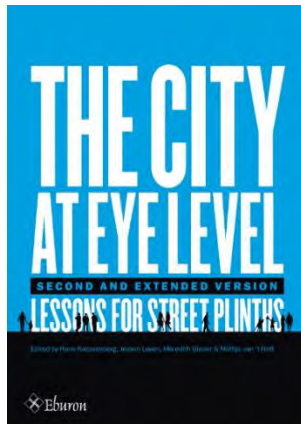
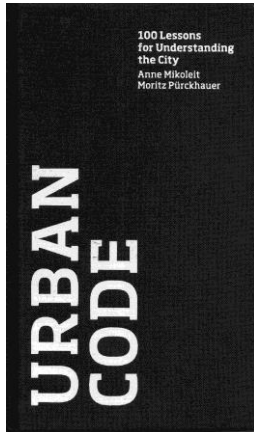
1. What is Urban Design?
2. What are the methods to collect, analyze and critique your observations about the city?
3. What experiential qualities contribute to places that are designed for people and serve their daily needs?
4. What should be in every urban designer's toolkit to get a clearer image of life in cities?
5. How can we improve the public realm and promote cities that are sustainable, socially engaged and improve the quality of life for users?
6. Why are Dutch cities a model for the study of public space and public life?

Experimentation

The focus of this course is the built environment; however, you are not expected to have drawing skills to take this class. You will experiment with different graphic communication exercises to become familiar with urban design tools and techniques. You are asked to actively engage in the exercises to fully understand its meaning. Building your skills will occur with hands-on exercises: brainstorming, making things, observation and critical analysis – you can only do this by showing a willingness to try new design methods and to experiment.

Course Textbook and Readings

All of the required reading will be available electronically and posted on Canvas. The textbook *Urban Code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City* will be a student's "pocket guide" to this course because it refers to seminal urban design books and theories. The following e-books will be made available to conduct field exercises and complete assignments.



Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be evaluated upon their process and execution of individual and team assignments as well as their attendance and class participation. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete each week's required readings prior to class. Late work will be accepted with a full letter grade deduction for each day late, starting with the day the assignment is due. Make-up presentations will not be offered.

Course Format

In-class lectures and activities will take place in person every Monday- Wednesday at our IES classroom, unless otherwise noted. Wednesday afternoons will be set aside for museum visits and Thursdays will be our excursion days. Attendance is expected unless you are sick. Lectures will not be recorded.

Course work consists of lectures, discussions and field exercises that reinforce assigned readings. The course will include "studio" time to work on individual and team assignments. Studio time provides an opportunity for you to present your work (drawings, photos, sketches, plans, etc) to a group of peers. During these informal class pin-ups you are expected to develop the skill of verbalizing constructive critical analysis of another student's work. You can also learn from the critiques of another's work in relation to your own. It is important to engage the ideas that are discussed in the weekly lectures, assigned reading and field exercises to demonstrate continuity in your work.

Principles of Community

We will spend a lot of time together this summer and my goal is to create a supportive learning community that fosters sharing ideas, personal experiences and creative expression. Group work can be challenging as well as rewarding. The most successful groups are those where all members respect the opinions of one another, develop processes for reaching consensus, and have clear and effective channels of communication.

Student Resources and Important Campus Policies

UC San Diego COVID Policies

Masking is required at all times in our IES classroom, regardless of vaccination status. Masks must cover both your nose and mouth. Please do not come to class if you are feeling unwell or have been advised that you need to quarantine due to exposure or illness. In the event that you are unable to attend class in person, the lecture PowerPoint slides will be available to you on Canvas. If you are feeling well enough, I will make accommodations for you to join class via Zoom. If you need to miss class due to illness/required quarantine, please contact me as soon as possible.

Course Assignments - NOTE: DUE dates will be Updated after GS 2024 is Approved.

EXERCISES	DUE DATE	MAXIMUM VALUE
#1 Figure Ground: Urban Form and City Patterns. Each student will create a Figure Ground drawing and identify a walking route with images of a European City (sign up list will be provided and each student has a different city) - individual exercise.	Monday, July 4 At 1:00pm Student display	40 points
#2 Great Streets of Amsterdam. working in teams you will conduct a site visit and analyze a street and/or canal in Amsterdam using the principles in the City at Eye Level (sign up list with specific street/canal locations provided) – team exercise.	Monday, July 11 At 1:00pm Teams present	40 points
#3 Public Space, Public Life in Amsterdam. working in teams you will conduct a site analysis by observing the physical qualities, people and activities at a specific “plein” or outdoor space – team exercise.	Tuesday, July 19 At 1:00pm Teams present	40 points
#4 Urban Code Scenes in Amsterdam. each student will identify (5) Urban Codes from the 100 codes in the book and explain how they apply + translate that code to Amsterdam. Students will identify the location of each code they select and document using photographs, hand-drawings and graphic, visual representation - individual exercise.	Tuesday July 26 at 10:00am Each student present	50 points
#5 Sketchbook of Amsterdam and City Excursions to Utrecht, Rotterdam and Groningen. "Ideas + Resources" for sketching in the field and on your own will be provided - individual exercise to submit with a brief Reflection Paper that describes how drawing +making with visual observations informed your work - individual exercise.	July 27 at 1:00pm Gallery Show	30 points
		200 points

Course Assignments Evaluation

Assignments will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Individual Exercises

1. You will be expected to employ the ideas and procedures outlined in the syllabus
2. Each assignment will have a description and grading rubric
3. Students are evaluated for individual progress based on:
 - a. Contribution to studio, lectures and field trips.
 - b. Evidence of motivation / perseverance.
 - c. Willingness to explore sketching and design alternatives and take risks.
 - d. Individual Critiques.

Team Exercises

1. Teams will be evaluated based on group progress based on:
 - a. Completeness of work.
 - b. Quality of work.
 - c. Group Critiques.
 - d. Evidence of participation – individual contribution to the group effort.

University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship

The *UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship* aims to encourage and maintain the highest ethical standards. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing will protect the validity of university intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. For more information about academic integrity at UC San Diego, go to: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the USP Department (Erica Kirk, ekirk@ucsd.edu) in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone); osd@ucsd.edu (email) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)

Title IX Compliance

The University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the Counseling Center: <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/CAPS/Pages/default.aspx>

Sketchbook + Reflection Paper

Sketchbook: sketches, collage, reflections, create a personal “idea and resource book” **Your sketchbook is a visual journal of the exercises, field trips, and excursions to Utrecht, Rotterdam and the Hague.** It contributes to your overall grade. You will be expected to bring your sketchbook and drawing materials with you. You are responsible to use your sketchbook to prepare for each exercise, document your field notes and site drawings, and to assemble a final sketchbook showing your work over the summer course. Set aside time to make drawings, photographs, plans, sketches, collage, etc that articulate your ideas and show what you learned.

Urban design is about solving problems and testing ideas through making and drawing. It is also important to engage the ideas that are discussed in each lecture or field excursion to demonstrate your understanding of urban design. You will be expected to bring your Sketchbook and Drawing Supplies to each class to continue to work on your visual communication skills.

Sketchbook Gallery

Week 5 each student will show 1-2 pages from your Sketchbook [select the best page(s) to show] in a Gallery style format. Each student will display pages you select from your Sketchbook to show the instructor and other students in the class.

Reflection Paper

Week 5 each student will submit a brief Reflection Paper. You will describe your thoughts and analyze how the Sketchbook exercises and drawings contributed to your study abroad experience. A reflection paper is meant to illustrate how the use of a Sketchbook contributed to your observations, visual learning and understanding of the class material, exercises and excursions.

A reflection paper is an essay that focuses on your personal thoughts relative to the global seminar experience and the study of urban design. This brief paper gives you the opportunity to consider how your personal experiences and observations during your time in the Netherlands shape your thinking and the opportunity to express yourself with a new way to work – specifically drawing and using a Sketchbook.

Drawing Supplies

Students will be responsible to purchase drawing supplies before the first class. Cost ranges from \$40-55.00.

- Sketchbook 5.5”x8.5” wire bound (100 sheets) Sketchbook (suitable for dry media such as pencils)
- Sketching Pencils (set of 12 graphite pencils) -- (8B, 7B, 6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H)
- Eraser: white polymer, Pentel Super Hi-Polymer or Mars Staedtler eraser.
- (2) large ranging from 6”-9” and 9”-11” triangles by eBoot, Pacific Arc or Wescott Triangle 30 degree/60 degree and 45 degree / 45 degree
- Triangular 12” Engineer Scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:30) plastic.
- Pencil sharpener with a lid / case to store shavings.

Store Locations to purchase supplies or from online sources (Amazon)

Blick Art Materials, 1844 India Street, San Diego (Little Italy), 619-687-0050.

Artist & Craftsman Supplies, 3804 Fourth Avenue, San Diego (Hillcrest), 619-688-1911.

Some supplies can be found at Staples, Michaels and UCSD Bookstore.

COURSE SCHEDULE NOTE: ALL dates will be Updated after GS 2024 is Approved.

Look in Canvas for announcements and updates by instructor. Schedule subject to change.

DATE	DAILY PLAN	IN-CLASS WORK	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1				
Sunday June 26	Welcome to Amsterdam! Neighborhood Tour			
Monday June 27	-IES Orientation (2:00 – 3:30 pm) - Canal Cruise (4:00 – 5:00 pm) Welcome Dinner (5:30 p.m.) Restaurant-Café De Waag <i>Nieuwmarkt 4, 1012 CR</i>			
Tuesday June 28	Lecture – What is Urban Design? <i>(class meets 1-3pm) Course overview:</i> Elements of Urban Design: Urban Form, Streetscape, Public Space. <i>Introduce Exercise #1</i>	Introduce Exercise #1 Figure Ground and Sign-Up for a CITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farrelly, Lorraine. <i>Drawing for Urban Design</i> (Nolli Map pg. 14-15), Figure Ground pg. 84-87) See student examples 	Sign Up for a European CITY from the list. Each student will have their own CITY.
Wednesday June 29	Introduce Exercise #5 Sketchbook + Museum exercise(s) <i>(class meets 11am-12noon)</i> Museum Tour: Rijksmuseum <i>(leave IES @ 1:15 for our tour from 2:00 - 3:00 pm)</i>	Bring sketchbook and drawing supplies to class and <i>Rijksmuseum</i> tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Sketchbook Resources + Ideas. Ching, Francis. <i>Architectural Graphics, Site Plan to Single-View Drawings</i>, pg. 28-37 Farrelly, Lorraine. <i>Drawing for Urban Design</i> pg. 6-121. 	Sketch exercises, take photos, gather collage materials at <i>Rijksmuseum</i>
Thursday June 30	Lecture – Figure Ground <i>(class meets 1-3pm)</i> European City Figure Ground and walking route with photos	Tutorial “how to” prepare Figure Ground Exercise #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bosselmann, Peter, <i>Images in Motion</i> (1998) pg. 267-289. The City of Eye Level, <i>Lessons for Street Plinths</i>, pgs. 36-47. 	Put on laptop: PowerPoint and Google Earth Pro

DATE	DAILY PLAN	IN-CLASS WORK	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 2				
Monday July 4	<p>Lecture – Great Streets of Amsterdam (class meets 1-3pm) The City at Eye Level: Lessons for Street Plinths. Introduce Exercise #2 and Teams SIGN UP for Amsterdam Street/Canal</p> <p>July 4th potluck</p>	<p><i>Class walks to Kalverstraat (centrum) to study street life</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City at Eye Level Lessons for Street, pgs. 14-25. • Gehl, Jan, Life Between Buildings, (2011) pg. 9-79. • Jacobs, Allan B. Great Streets. <i>An Introduction to Great Streets.</i> Pgs. 1-11, misc. maps. 	<p>Exercise #1 – Figure Ground DUE today at 1:00pm</p> <p>Teams Sign Up for Exercise #2 Amsterdam street/canal</p>
Tuesday July 5	<p>Pin-Up Figure Ground Gallery style review Exercise #1 (class meets 1-3pm)</p>	<p><i>Compare City Urban Form+ Patterns</i></p>		<p><i>Teams on your own go to your street/canal</i></p>
Wednesday July 6	<p>Introduce Exercise #4 Urban Code Each student will select five (5) Urban Codes to represent how they apply in Amsterdam (class meets 1:30-3pm)</p> <p>Museum Tour Anne Frank House (leave IES @ 3:15 for tour from 4:15 – 5:45 pm)</p>	<p><i>Review Urban Code e-book 100 Lessons for Understanding the City</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mikoleit and Purckharer, Urban Code (2011) e-book. • See Urban Code student examples: Germany and San Diego 	<p><i>Teams on your own go to your street/canal</i></p>
Thursday July 7	<p>Excursion Full day site tour/visit to Rotterdam</p>	<p>Bring sketchbook and drawing supplies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City at Eye Level in the Netherlands, Rotterdam, pgs. 155-159. 	<p>Sketch exercises, take photos, gather collage materials in Rotterdam</p>
Week 3				
Monday July 11	<p>Present Exercise #2 Great Streets of Amsterdam (class meets 1-3pm) Each team presents your Amsterdam Street/canal</p>	<p>Each Team present Exercise #2 Show maps and Scale exercises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gehl, Jan & Birgitte Svarre. How to Study Public Life. “Public Space, Public Life” (2013). Pgs. 1-35. 	<p>Exercise #2 – Great Streets DUE today 1:00pm</p>

DATE	DAILY PLAN	IN-CLASS WORK	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 3				
Tuesday July 12	Introduce Exercise #3 Public Space Public Life <i>(class meets 1-3pm)</i> <u>NOTE: class may run longer to spend time at Vondelpark</u> <i>Go to Vondelpark to sketch, study public space and draw using perspective</i>	Bring Sketchbook, drawing supplies and Engineer Scale. Show maps and learn “how to use” Engineer Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ching, Francis. Architectural Graphics. pgs. 44-59 – perspective drawings, sketch and renderings pgs. 4-70, 90-92 	Sketch exercises, take photos, gather collage materials at Vondelpark
Wednesday July 13	Introduce Exercise #3 Public Space Public Life in Amsterdam <i>Netherlands approach and “Lessons for Street Plinths” (class meets 11am-12noon)</i> Tour De Ceuvel + N. Amsterdam <i>(leave IES @ 1:15 pm for tour from 2:00 – 4:30 pm)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Eye Level in the Netherlands, De Ceuvel neighborhood, pgs. 23-28. Ivers, Cannon B. <u>Staging Urban Landscapes.</u> Harvard Plaza. Public Spaces.” Pgs. 46-53 and 74-85 	Sign Up for each team Exercise #3 – Public Space Public Life Amsterdam “plein”
Thursday July 14	Excursion/Fieldwork Full day in Utrecht			
Week 4				
Monday July 18	Lecture - The City at Eye Level in the Netherlands <i>Lessons on Public Space Public Life in the Netherlands (class meets 1-3pm)</i> Exercise #3 – work in class <i>Public Space Public Life in Amsterdam</i>	<i>Exercise #3 Tutorial on scale, color codes and programs.</i> Bring sketchbook, drawing supplies and Engineer Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Eye Level in the Netherlands, pgs. XX-XX. 	Teams on your own go to your “plein”
Tuesday July 19	Present Exercise #3 Public Space Public Life <i>(class meets 1-3pm)</i> Each team presents your Amsterdam “plein”			Exercise #3 – Public Space Public Life DUE today 1:00pm

DATE	DAILY PLAN	IN-CLASS WORK	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 4				
Wednesday July 20	<p>Continue to work on Exercise #4 Urban Code Review book/student examples and discuss as a class (Class meets from 12:30-2:00pm)</p> <p>Museum Tour: Van Gogh Museum (leave IES @ 2:15 p.m. for tour from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>Check in our upcoming Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban Code ▪ Sketchbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mikoleit and Purckharer, Urban Code (2011) e-book <p>Check on Canvas Examples of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban Code ▪ Sketchbook Ideas <p>Student examples</p>	<p>Own your in Amsterdam find your five (5) Urban Codes</p> <p>Sketch exercises, take photos, gather collage materials at Van Gogh Museum</p>
Thursday July 21	<p>Excursion/Fieldwork Full day in Groningen</p>			
Week 5				
Monday July 25	<p>Continue to work on Exercise #4 Urban Code and Exercise #5 Sketchbook (class meets 1-3pm) Brief talk about Collage</p>	<p>Bring sketchbook, drawing supplies and collection of papers/materials to class</p>		
Tuesday July 26	<p>Presentations Urban Code Scenes from Amsterdam ALL DAY both classes (class meets from 10:00-12:00noon and 1:00-3:00pm)</p>	<p>BEGIN at 10:00am present during BOTH classes and wrap up at 1:30pm/2:00pm</p>		<p>Exercise #4 – Urban Code Amsterdam DUE today 10:00am Each student presents your 5 Urban Code</p>
Wednesday July 27	<p>Gallery style Sketchbook Show Each student selects 1-2 pages from your Sketchbook to display in a gallery style show for instructors and peers to review (class meets 1:30-2:45pm) (leave IES @ 3:00 p.m.) Museum Tour Stedelijk Museum</p>	<p>Each student will display your Sketchbook</p> <p>Submit Sketchbook to Instructor</p>		<p>Exercise #5 – Sketchbook DUE And Reflection Paper DUE today at 1:00pm</p>

DATE	DAILY PLAN	IN-CLASS WORK	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 5				
Thursday July 28	<p>Program Debrief (class meets 10:00am-12noon) (class meets 1:00-3:00pm) Farewell dinner (5:30 pm)</p> <p>Indrapura Restaurant, Rembrandtplein 40, 1017 CV, Amsterdam</p>	Instructor Returns Sketchbook to Students		
Friday July 29	Free Day to explore Amsterdam			
Saturday, July 30	<p>Student Departure Day Tot ziens and safe travels home!</p>			

Scenes from GS 2022 in Amsterdam – USP 183GS International Urban Design Practicum

