

ARCH 5111 DESIGN STUDIO M1  
**TRANSFORMING REALITY – Searching for a Sense of Knowledge**

2016-2017 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Instructor: Peter W. Ferretto  
O: 405 T: 3943 6560 E: peter.ferretto@cuhk.edu.hk

Online course TBC  
Student Assistant TBC

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## 1.0\_DESCRIPTION



*“Architects don’t invent anything, they transform reality. Architecture does not have a pre-established language nor does it establish a language. It is a response to a concrete problem, a situation of transformation; only in this sense can I participate. In architecture we have already passed the phase when we thought that the unity of language would resolve everything. A pre-established language, pure, beautiful, does not interest me”.*

Siza, A. “Architects don’t invent, they transform”. (AR: Issue 1416, Feb. 2015)

This year’s studio focuses on the relationship between place and education within the city. In the city things do not always work as they should; things do not fit perfectly together. Yet as conflicting forces, the worn and threadbare pieces of the city function dynamically, working in reaction to one another. Spaces of reaction, the residual conditions of the city is the agenda of this studio.

Working in opposition to the current trend to homogenize our cities, where in the name of development cities have been stripped of their social purpose, where so much energy is put into designing iconic totems, we will work empirically; from under the skin, behind the face of buildings and between the gaps of the systems that operate in the city. Through direct observations we will generate a taxonomy of residual conditions, of incomplete places, unwritten histories and un-planned spaces.

## 1.1\_Seoul

The site of the project will be in the heart of Seoul, a complex Asian mega-city with a total (conurbation) population that exceeds 25million, more than half the total population of Korea.

*“Seoul is a city of discontinuities, a sequence of fragments that collectively converge to form an urban settlement set against a dramatic natural backdrop. At the heart of Seoul's DNA is absence, or rather the absence of any grid. -Unlike its neighbouring capitals: Beijing and Tokyo, Seoul is a capital whose urban fabric expands in direct symbiosis with its topography. -The urban fragment is the very marrow of Seoul life: apparently incongruous elements that continuously generate new reciprocities. -For this reason Seoul is a difficult city to comprehend on first encounter, each fragment subverts preconceived notions of the familiar, where what you see is definitely not what you get.*

*One can never claim to know where Seoul begins or where it ends. -It is city rich in heritage at the same time suffocated by the generic: surrounded by nature yet immersed in a jungle of concrete; it is a city that has grown organically, devoid of any organizing grid. -Ultimately Seoul is a city that never stops adapting. -As today's cities constantly strive towards creating unified urban visions, manifestations of dislocation and fragmentation that define Seoul's daily existence are constantly rejected and derided as abnormalities that must be eliminated or corrected.”*

Ferretto, P. “Place/Seoul” (Seoul: Propaganda, 2015)

## 1.2\_Seoul Biennale

The project will be connected to the Seoul Biennale and will be one of the 10 international architectural studios selected to exhibit at the Seoul Biennale, Architecture and Urbanism, 2017.

*“Running in close parallel with the activities of the Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, the Seoul Biennale International Studios (SBIS) will form a dynamic knowledge bridge between the academic, professional, and governmental stakeholders of the Seoul Biennale.*

*Partnering with some of the best international and domestic institutions, SBIS will coordinate the design research along the Biennale's major thematic lines, bringing a unique depth and breadth to the topics. Beyond an exciting exhibition and symposia of the work, the activities of SBIS will have an important afterlife as a vital resource in the form of a web portal, design archive, and publications. Generating an in-depth database of design research, the goal of SBIS will be to connect the seemingly hyper-local sites and topics of Seoul to an international, inter-city context: In this way, the unique challenges, experiments, and achievements Seoul and its partner cities will also be comprehensible as prototypical problem-solving initiatives that can be rescaled and reconfigured to a wide variety of situations.*

*This intellectual connection between the local and global can become in and of itself a shared resource that will generate reciprocal cross-cultural learning across national boundaries.”*

Introduction to Seoul Biennale International Studios Report.

### **1.3\_Seoul National University, Collaborative Studio**

As well as participating in the Seoul Architecture and Urbanism Biennale, we will also collaborate with Seoul National University, Department of Architecture. Prof. Hangman Zho will be running a parallel Design Studio looking at the same topic and sites, hence we will be able to exchange ideas and importantly conduct a short workshop on the topic during our visit.

### **1.4\_Residual Conditions**

In “Convertible City”, the sociologist Saskia Sassen (2006) relates her informal economic theory “Novel Assemblage” directly to the city pointing out that architecture needs to engage directly with unforthcoming spaces, elaborating a “another architecture” to occupy today's massive urban infrastructures.

Large cities, in her view, contain a diversity of under-used spaces, which often lie outside today's logical spatial frames. It is exactly these spaces that the studio believes are an essential part of the interiority of the city and that any proposal to reactivate or inhabit them has got to avoid, the predictable developer mindset, which only seeks to maximize their real estate value. New practices have to be sought out, steering away from an architecture of permanence, towards a temporary architecture of interventions that subvert and reactivate abandoned public spaces.

We will explore the notion of “taylor made” that is combined with developing architectural tools for opening up the city, by seeing the city as living organism we can perform urban surgery where remodeling the body involves processes of repair and maintenance: cutting, removing, stripping, grafting, transplanting, lifting its face turning exterior to interior. We aim at keeping the city alive.

### **1.5\_Site - Euljiro/Gyeonggycheon Region**

Spanning east-west, this important transverse region contains the revitalized Cheonggycheon stream on its northern border and the Eulchiro Underground on the Southern border. Bisected by the north-south Seun-sangga megastructure, the region has undergone layers of urban renewal so that today the historical and modern are imprinted on the same urban fabric. Diverse light manufacturing, residential, and large-scale financial institutions are housed within its span and its western end terminates in an international embassy district and the West gate, Donghui-mun.

Students will be asked to map the area and via this mapping process designate their serendipitous site where they will develop their architectural projects.

### **1.6\_Trade Based Education Center (TBE)**

The studio invites proposals that critically address the impact of the existing residual condition as well as speculate alternative scenarios that will bring positive changes to the space production and knowledge in the area.

The studio seeks students that, paraphrasing Cedric Price, become architects that construct social wellbeing through the distortion of time, space and intervals. The type of Trade Education Centre you will design could be a space where a city can grow inside the city, a safe place for the fragile and vulnerable or an extraordinary space of production.

The objective of the studio is to design 10 (one per student) different forms of TBE centers, each responding to a specific trade associated with the neighbourhood, i.e.

Fashion, Textiles, Ceramics, Electronics, Furniture, Robotics, Metal work, Toys, Music, Digital Media, Industrial Design, etc...

The site will be on a residual site in Euljiro Seoul, where each students will have to select their own perimeter and then adapt and liaise with existing structures. The center's surface area will depend on the selected form of trade but should be between 3,000 – 6,000 sqm. The programme of each TBE Centre should be defined by the student but include functions such as (but not exclusively): Workshops, Live/work Units, Material/Craft Library, Public Spaces, Offices, Exhibition Gallery, Education classrooms, etc...

The course will pursue the development of the project as the material consequence of a spatial idea, by experimenting and verifying the project itself through large scale drawings. The focus of the studio will be drawing: Sections, Plans and Axonometric.

## **2.0\_OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of Arch 5111 Design Studio M1 are to develop an architectural design knowledge and skills with the emphasis on the on the following topics:

2.01\_Develop a comprehensive building design, understanding the various components of an architectural idea along with the capacity to synthesize these elements into a critical architectural concept and proposal.

2.02\_Acquire proficiency in an expanded range of spatial organizational strategies, tactics and diagrams.

2.03\_Develop an analytical and intuitive awareness and understanding of the correspondence between design approaches and processes, particularly as it pertains to spatial generation and development, visualization and representation.

2.04\_Use significant architectural precedents tactically and critically in the development of an architectural proposal.

2.05\_Acquire proficiency in working with various building systems including: spatial, structural, material, sustainable and environmental.

2.06\_The development of a coherent and articulated final architectural proposal, achieving a high resolution both in terms of drawings and models.

## **2.1\_Methodology**

The focus of the whole semester will be on drawing, specifically developing an strong architectural lexicon using: plans, sections and axonometrics. You will be requested to develop "Composite Drawings" that elaborate and describe the context and spaces you conceive.

Apart from drawing the following skills will be practiced and taught at each phase of the studio:

### 2.1.1 Model Making - Phase 1 and 4

During the first three weeks students will develop rough conceptual models, using wood only, to elaborate ideas about their abstract Trade Centre. Also their final proposal will have represented in a 1:200 timber model.

### 2.1.2 Drawings – Phases 1,2,3 and 4

Emphasis will be to produce “composite drawings”; mixed media drawings that combine digital and analogue techniques and infuse a sense of spatial depth into the image. All material produced will be expected to be of a publication standard, as it will be included in the final Biennale presentation.

### 2.1.3 Presentation

Throughout the semester all work will be geared to a final publication. The format and the graphics of the panels will all be produced digitally using Adobe software packages such as InD and AI.

### 2.1.4 Graphics

All fonts will be Minion Pro  
All CAD and pencil drawings have to be edited in AI  
All layouts will have to be made in ID

### 2.1.5 Photography

This design studio puts a high importance on the photography of spaces from models. Photography is seen as a medium to explore space.  
All photographs have to be taken using a tripod and studio conditions

## **2.2 Phases**

The studio will be divided into four Phases

### 2.2.1 Phase 1 Trade Analysis (3 weeks)

- Select a trade that you wish to explore, that is connected with the Eujiro District, such as: Fashion, Textiles, Ceramics, Electronics, Furniture, Robotics, Metal work, Toys, Music, Digital Media, Industrial Design, etc...
- Produce analytical panel relating the trade selected with a system of operation. What physical characteristics are required?
- Design a prototype work/learn/live space for your centre.
- Produce three images of the above spaces.

### 2.2.2 Phase 2 Site Analysis (3 weeks)

- We will visit Seoul between 16.09.29 and 16.10.02
- Macro and Micro understanding of site > Drawings and Diagrams
- Mapping of Residual conditions within our site > Drawings
- Mapping of related trades > Drawings
- Site selection > Model 1:500
- Analytical drawings of existing site conditions> Section and Plan 1:200

### 2.2.3 Phase 3 Scheme Development (3 weeks)

- Programmatic definition
- Transformation of residual space into programmatic building
- Design proposals > Drawing and Model 1:200
- Design in section > Design the experience of the spaces

### 2.2.4 Phase 4 Final Representation (4 weeks)

- Production of final 15 A1 panels
- Working from an accurate 3D model of the proposal produce realistic images of the scheme
- Final 1:200 model (wood)
- Final 1:50 model of a small critical section of the scheme (wood)

- Minimum of 5 images, interior and exterior of the scheme
- Full working set of architectural drawings including: Plans, Sections and Axonometrics

### **3.0\_LEARNING OUTCOME**

By the end of this one semester course, it is intended that students develop the following skills and capacities:

- 3.1\_Ability to undertake focused and analytical study into a new research topic.
- 3.2\_Ability to adapt and react to a foreign site and understand the cultural and sociological implications of a new city such as Seoul, South Korea.
- 3.3\_ Ability to formulate a critical position regarding the relationship between Trade, City and Architecture.
- 3.4\_Ability to perform a comprehensive site analysis from macro to micro, considering both architectural aspects such as scale and urban fabric as well as social considerations.
- 3.5\_Ability to translate an abstract concept into an architectural design proposal, through a defined process of empirical testing.
- 3.6\_Develop a set of representation tools to characterize the spatial and material quality of their proposals, including: 3D digital and physical models.
- 3.7\_Ability to use photography as a design tool to articulate their design.
- 3.8\_Ability to design in Section, articulating space beyond a plan reading into a three dimensional domain through drawings.

### **4.0\_ASSESSMENT**

The studio instructor will monitor and evaluate each student's progress and performance over the course of the semester. At the end of the semester the instructor will review each student's final performance and the evaluation and grading of the design studio will be structured as follows:

- **70% for Final Project**
- **20% for Mid-Term (Process)**
- **10% for Participation, Etc.**

#### **4.1\_Final Project: 70%**

Deliverables

##### 4.1.1\_Panels

The final Layout will consist of 15 number A1 panels

##### 4.1.2\_Models

Site model (1/500),

Final Model (1/200)

Sectional Model (1/50)

##### 4.1.3\_Drawings

Site plan (1/500)

Ground Floor Plan and other important levels (1/200)

Sections (1/200)

Exploded Axonometric

Detail sectional drawings (1/50)

##### 4.1.4\_Images

Photographs of models

External Views: renderings and models

Internal Views: renderings and models

#### **4.2\_20% for Mid-term (process): 10%**

Documentation of the Design Process from commencement of studio until Mid-term proposal.

#### **4.3\_Participation: 10%**

Students should attend all tutorials, any absence should be warned and accompanied by a note if recurring.

Note:

The criteria in determining the grade will be according to the following criteria:

- Visual Communication
- Verbal Communication
- Digital Skills
- Physical Model Skills
- Design Logic and Reasoning
- Creativity
- Design Process and Execution
- Technical development
- Contribution to Studio Culture

### **5.0\_COURSE FORMAT**

5.1\_The studio meets M-T from 13:30 to 18:00.

5.2\_All students are required to be in a designated class for the duration of the studio.

5.3\_During individual tutorials all students are expected to remain in the class until 18:00

5.4\_The Mid-review and Final review will follow the prescribed (school) dates, participation is mandatory.

5.5\_The Mid-review will be organized with two guest critics: one from CUHK and one from outside.

5.6\_The date of the site visit is to be confirmed.

### **6.0\_FIELD TRIPS**

6.1\_There will be an associated and mandatory field trip to visit the site in Seoul. The trip will be over five days and students will be requested to stay in a hotel.

6.2\_We will be traveling to Seoul by plane, and the trip will take place 16.09.29 and 16.10.02.

6.3\_While in Seoul student will present their initial analysis to Seoul National University Department of Architecture.

### **7.0\_READINGS LIST**

Each student is encouraged to read at least one of the highlighted books listed below:

Banham, R. "Los Angeles: the Architecture of the Four Ecologies" (Oakland: University of California Press, 1971/2009)

- Borio, G.; Wüthrich C. "Hong Kong in-Between" (Berlin: Park Books, 2015)
- Christ, E. & Gantenbein, C. "Hong Kong Typology". (Zurich: Gta Verlag, 2010)
- Crawford, M.; Chase, J.; Kaliski, J. "Everyday Urbanism". (New York: Monacelli Press, 1999)
- Cupers, K and Miessen, M. "Spaces of Uncertainty" (Wuppertal: Verlag Muller and Busmann, 2002)
- de Certeau, M. "Practices of Space". (In "On Signs" Ed. Blonsky - Batimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985)
- De Certeau, M. "The Practice of Everyday Life". (Berkeley: UC Press, 2006)
- Diener, R; Herzog, J; Meili, M; de Meuron, P; Herz, M; Schmid, C; Topalovic, M. "The Inevitable Specificity of Cities" (Zurich: Lars Müllers Publishers, 2015)
- Evans, R. "Translation from Drawing to Building". (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997)
- Ferretto, P. "Place/Seoul" (Seoul: Propaganda, 2015)
- Foucault, M. "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias" (In October – Cambridge, MA, MIT-press, 1984)
- Harvey, D. "Rebel Cities". (London, New York: Verso, 2011)
- Kim, S. "The FAR Game – Constraints Sparking Creativity – Korean Pavilion Catalogue to the 15<sup>th</sup> Venice Architectural Biennale". (Seoul: Space, 2016)
- Pai, H.; Cho, M. "Crow's Eye View: The Korean Peninsula - Korean Pavilion Catalogue to the 14<sup>th</sup> Venice Architectural Biennale". (Seoul: Archilife, 2014)
- Rattenbury, K; Hardingham, S. "Cedric Price; Non Plan. Cedric Price. Cedric Price: Potteries Thinkbelt". (London: Routledge, 2007)
- Rossi, R. "The Architecture of the City". (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984)
- Sassen, S. "Making Public Interventions in Today's Massive Cities" (Paper at the "Generalized Empowerment" Urban Forum Conference, Brussels 2006)
- Sola-Morales, I. "Terrain Vague" (AnyPlace, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995)
- Venturi, R. "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture". (New York: MOMA, Architectural Press, 1966).

## **8.0\_ RECOMMENDED REFERENCES**

Besides the architectural literature listed above students are encouraged to research and read about Artist and Architects that are experimenting with notions of Adapting and Transformation. Here follows a list:

1. Michelangelo Pistoletto, Artist
2. Enzo Mari, Architect (Autoprogettazione project)
3. Walter Pichler, Artist

4. Raimund Abraham, Architect
5. Gordon Matta-Clark, Artist
6. Richard Wilson, Artist
7. Walter Segal, Architect
8. Panamarenko, Artist
9. Lucien Kroll, Architect
10. Carlo Scarpa, Architect

## 9.0\_SCHEDULE

The Schedule will be organized in Tasks, each consisting of an: Assignment, Working period and a Review.

A detailed outline of each week follows:

### Phase 1\_Concept

Week 1\_05.09 – 09.09 > Select 1/10 Artist and Architects > Make spatial Model

Week 2\_12.09 – 16.09 > Select and analyze Trade > One A1 Panel

Week 3\_19.09 – 23.09 > 3 views of “your” Trade spaces.

### Phase 2\_Site

Week 4\_26.09 – 30.09 > Field trip to Seoul

Week 5\_03.10 – 07.10 > Mapping Site – residual conditions

Week 6\_10.10 – 14.10 > Site Selection–Midterm Review

### Phase 3\_Scheme

Week 7\_17.10 – 21.10 > Define programme

Week 8\_24.10 – 28.10 > Engage with Residual and context

Week 9\_31.10 – 04.11 > 1:200 Section of scheme

### Phase 4\_Representation

Week 10\_07.11 – 11.11 > 3D model of whole scheme

Week 11\_14.11 – 18.11 > 1:200 final model

Week 12\_21.11 – 25.11 > Minimum of 5 images, interior and exterior of the scheme

Week 13\_28.11 – 02.12 > Final 1:50 model of critical section of the scheme

Week 14\_05.12 – 09.12 > 08.12 Final Review > 15 panels A1

## 10\_IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

### 10.1\_Attendance:

Class attendance is required in all courses. For an excused absence, the instructor must be notified and presented with documentation of illness or personal matter. Please note: Three (3) or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

### 10.2\_Academic Honesty:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students may be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

### 10.3\_Student Work:

Submission of studio documentation in correct and complete format is required of each

student. Without submission of the documentation folder no grade will be submitted for the course. This may result in a failing grade for the course and may delay graduation.