

ARCH 5111 DESIGN STUDIO M1
CONDITION / TOGETHER – The Urban Residential Block

2017-2018 1st Term

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Online course TBC
Student Assistant TBC

IMAGE

1.0_DESCRIPTION

"I am searching for a new form of living – not shared flats, but houses that enable communal living in a larger context and encourage the creation of public spaces. My colleagues and I want to re-invent the urban residential block, providing public spaces that work without intruding on the privacy of the individual. The trend to living alone has proved to be negative, for someone in their twenties, its fine to live in a sublet. But it would be better if people could live together and contribute to the community"
(Sennett, 2016)

Theme

This studio tackles the issue of Density/Place in Hong Kong by investigating the notion of collective dwelling. Housing is scarce in Hong Kong, and conventional ideas of housing developments consistently prove unable to meet demands. The new economy of sharing which in recent years has manifested itself across various areas of society: Car sharing, Apartment sharing and Entrepreneurial sharing such as crowd funding have started to have an important impact on housing. An example of this paradigm shift are "Collective Housing" projects, where architects are able to propose unconventional solutions to contemporary social issues such as: ageing demographics and collective working.

The studio's contention is that Hong Kong should seek opportunities to densify within their existing territorial limits before the expansion of land surface is considered. Students will be asked to challenge the mono-functional housing model of the modern era, where non-residential functions can be used not only by residents but by people in the whole neighbourhood. Well-designed buildings alone cannot solve the housing problem, schemes must engage spatially and conceptually with their surrounding context if they are to become lively urban spaces rather than gated dormitory towers.

Hong Kong in Context

We will be working in an area of Kowloon located between Sham Shui Po and Shek Kei Mei, an area that is in urgent need of urban solutions to tackle the prevalent urban decay. The site, an urban block located between Shek Kei Mei Street and Nam Cheong Street, forms a typical Sham Shui Po urban block, i.e. 100m long and 50m wide (5,000 m²), and is currently being demolished for redevelopment.

Sham Shui Po, which translates as "Deep Water Pier" use to be a commercial harbor, today has an gridiron urban grid developed in the 1930's with arteries running parallel to the sea front. During the 1960's the 3 story tenement building were demolished and exchanged for higher 8 story buildings that make up much of the present condition. The existing fabric of the city, the small grain of the Sham Shui Po's urban block, characterized by commercial activities at ground level and residential units above is a

valuable form of cultural patrimony, and although it may not be able to meet the demands of contemporary society, is the starting point of our project.

We will begin by making a survey. This will need to be undertaken at the scale of the city and the immediate neighbourhood your project is sited in. Each student will be asked to review an existing Sham Shui Po Urban block, producing an annotated 3D axonometric drawing of the existing situation. By understanding what it is you are being asked to work with, you stand a better chance of making a building that is suited to its purpose. Finally, the programme for the proposed block, will predominantly consist of housing together with other functions you deem most necessary and that in particular engage and negotiate a relationship to the public realm of the city.

Project

The first component of the work to be undertaken requires you to develop a strategy plan for the whole neighbourhood, i.e. the urban block and its context. Think of this as a typological and massing study, to be produced with a 1:500 site model. We ask you to begin by exploring numerous solutions that would allow the site you are studying to be developed to a reasonably high density with mid-rise tower solutions coupled with lower elements. Each study or option you propose should be recorded photographically and then critically appraised and tested in terms of the density it yields. This exercise should be understood as an iterative process that will begin to develop the idea for the project you will be working on throughout the semester.

Survey

To help you understand the task that you will be attending to this semester you will start by undertaking a survey. You will be asked to select an "Urban Block" within Sham Shui Po and produce a detailed architectural survey, considering: internal layouts, street and courtyard facades, structural building grid, roofscape and programmatic distribution, in the form of an A1 axonometric drawings to generate a profile

- This will be at the scale of the city, focusing on the immediate neighbourhood your project would be adjusting and adding to.
- This will ensure a clearer understanding of what it is you are being asked to work with, giving you a better chance of making a building that is suited to its purpose.
- The programme that we consider most appropriate for the sites chosen would be formed predominantly by housing, although other programmes could be considered, particularly where the project is required to negotiate its relationship to the public realm of the city.
- You could consider how the plan of a building is organised, or you could consider a study that looks at elevations rather than at building volumes. You should be able to describe it clearly and analytically, employing diagrams where necessary.
- Alternatively you might concentrate on understanding the quality and arrangement of a facade drawing upon a measured survey of an existing series of elevations.
- This will require you to look carefully at buildings, making sketches and taking photographs as a way of recording this current condition.
- We also ask you to make a precise photographic portrait that conveys the atmosphere of the building or buildings and the manner in which they are situated in the city.
- You might also make a photographic portrait of an internal space and record the relationship of the building's interior with the city outside.

- You are free to choose the subject of your own survey, but do consider carefully the role it may play in assisting you later.

Atmosphere and Image

Building Concept

Façade Concept

Material for Final Review

2.0_OBJECTIVES

The objectives the Studio are to develop an architectural design knowledge and skills with the emphasis on the on the following topics:

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.

Acquire proficiency in an expanded range of spatial organizational strategies, tactics and diagrams.

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.

Use significant architectural precedents tactically and critically in the development of an architectural proposal.

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

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:

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_Design Process: 10%

Documentation of the Design Process from commencement of studio until final proposal.

4.3_Research Analysis: 10%

Specifically this relates to phase 1 and 2 of the studio, i.e. Trade and Site analysis.

4.4_Studio Attendance: 10%

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

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 Monday and Thursday 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 15th Venice Architectural Biennale". (Seoul: Space, 2016)
- Pai, H.; Cho, M. "Crow's Eye View: The Korean Peninsula - Korean Pavilion Catalogue to the 14th 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

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

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.