**Arch 407/507 Seminar • Portland • Winter 2019 • Howard Davis**

**Incremental urbanism:**

**Case studies in growth, form and preservation**

**Thursdays 9:00-11:50, variable credit, 3 or 4 credits. The course satisfies an architectural history requirement in Architecture or in Historic Preservation.**

Most cities combine “top-down” and “bottom-up” processes of design and building. From European hill towns that grew incrementally based on an initial indication of overall form, to New York City in which the “top-down” Commissioners’ Plan of 1811 was filled in by tens of thousands of individually-designed buildings and building groups, the actual formation of cities belies the overly simplistic notions of “planned cities” and “organic cities.”

The incremental historical development of cities corresponds with a modern interest in preserving and fostering the accretive quality of urban environments. Recent applications of vernacular and cultural landscape theories have produced new tools, such as UNESCO’s Historic Urban Landscapes program, for conserving multiple layers of everyday urbanism in addition to what we might consider the monumental.

*The purpose of this seminar is to investigate these complex phenomena of urban growth and the ways to both foster and preserve cities that demonstrate these phenomena. We will engage a series of historic case studies to understand the challenges in preserving and extending the archetypical examples of what we will call “incremental urbanism.”*

After an initial two lectures, the seminar will be conducted as student-led presentations of case studies and coordination of discussions about readings. These case studies will be organized chronologically, with each of four epochs representing a variety of historic and contemporary examples across the world, including issues of preservation. Students and small student groups will be responsible for leading discussions of readings and making presentations. Professor James Buckley, director of our Historic Preservation Program has also agreed to participate by giving one or two relevant talks.

Student work includes weekly readings, presentations in groups, an individual presentation in the final weeks of the course, and a take-home exam, consisting of three or four essay questions, due during exam week.

***Tentative schedule. Wks 3-6 and 8-9 involve group & individual student presentations and student-led discussions.***

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| **1** | **1/10** HD lecture: Introduction: the origin and growth of cities. Specific readings to be assigned. |
| **2** | **1/17** HD lecture: Modes of urban growth and formation. Ideas of emergence, piecemeal growth, the role of typology and shared knowledge, different approaches to urban morphology. |
| **3** | **1/24 ‘INDIGENOUS’ CULTURES**. Possible topics: traditional wooden villages of Japan; Desert settlements in Rajasthan, India; Pacific Coast Native Americans; Australian aboriginal dwellings, others. The preservation of “intangible heritage” and environments that continuously transform. |
| **4** | **1/31 PRE-MODERN TOWNS AND CITIES**. Possible topics: the medinas of North Africa; the European medieval town; the rectangular grid and its buildings in traditional China and Japan; the cities of the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal; pre-Columbian Mexico City; the destroyed Jewish landscapes of eastern Europe. Preservation and interpretation of “traditional cities” such as Luang Prabang—cities as UNESCO World Heritage sites.  Short lecture by Jim Buckley. |
| **5** | **2/7 THE INDIGENOUS AND THE MODERN**. Possible topics: medieval context of the Haussmann plan of Paris; self- building and local builders in early 20th century American cities; the persistence of “organic” growth in London; Chandigarh and the context of vernacular India; the laneways of Melbourne. Preservation of the “modern vernacular” |
| **6** | **2/14 CONTEMPORARY GRASSROOTS URBANISM**. Possible topics: informal settlements in Asia, Africa and Latin America; Christiania/Copenhagen; neighborhood initiatives in Berlin & London; ‘tqctical urbanism’; preservation of the everyday. Short lecture by Jim Buckley |
| **7** | **2/21** HD lecture; experimental projects and contemporary initiatives in design and preservation. Summary discussion. |
| **8** | **2/28** Individual student presentations I |
| **9** | **3/7** Individual student presentations II. Take-home exam questions distributed. |
| **10** | Final reviews: **No class** |
| **11** | Take home final exams due |

A full list of required readings will be made available in the first weeks of the course. As possible, readings will be on reserve in the White Stag Block library, but students are also expected to use library resources including article search, inter-library loan, Summit loans, appropriate indices, etc. These readings will include sources from the exhaustive bibliography in the *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*; urban history, urban form and structure and historic preservation. Below is a very preliminary list.

# Christopher Alexander, *A New Theory of Urban Design* and *The Nature of Order*

The Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments - 1931

# M.R.G. Conzen, *Alnwick: A Study in Town Plan Analysis*

# Margaret Crawford, *Everyday Urbanism`*

# Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums* and *Magical Urbanism*

# Miles Glendinning, *The conservation movement: a history of architectural preservation : antiquity to modernity*

Cari Goetcheus and Nora Mitchell, “The Venice Charter and Cultural Landscapes: Evolution

of Heritage Concepts and Conservation Over Time,” *Change Over Time*, 4:2, Fall 2014, 338-357.

# Besim Hakim, *Arabic-Islamic Cities*

# Nabeel Hamdi, *Small Change*

# Bill Hillier, *The Social Logic of Space* and *Space is the Machine*

# Jyoti Hosagrahar, “A history of heritage conservation in city planning.”

# *Jyoti* Hosagrahar, *Indigenous Modernities*;

# Jukka Jokilehto, *A History of Architectural Conservation*

# Ronald Knapp, *Chinese Landscapes: The Village as Place*

# Spiro Kostof, *The City Assembled* and *The City Shaped*

# Paul Oliver, ed., *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*

# Colin Rowe and Fred Koetter, *Collage City*

# Doug Saunders, *Arrival City*

Laurajane Smith, *Uses of Heritage*

John H. Stubbs [World Monuments Fund], *Time Honored: A Global View of*

*Architectural Conservation*

# *John* Turner, *Housing by People*

UNESCO – World Heritage Information Kit

Venice Charter (1964) “The International Charter for the Conservation and

Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice Charter)”

# *Roxanne* Waterson, *The Living House*

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