

TYPES AND TYPOLOGY - THE URBAN BUILDING

Urban Architecture Program UO Portland

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Foto: H. Neis

The study and design of the urban building is an essential part of the Urban Architecture and Urban Design education. The development of cities as social, cultural and economic entities has gone hand in hand with the development of characteristic or typical buildings that have enabled private and public institutions to function and contribute to the complexity and varied life of the city. Urban buildings have always embodied both cultural ideas and functional organization and have changed over time in ways that have mirrored other changes in society.

The last 200 years have seen a proliferation of new and transformed building types connected with the growth of industrial capitalism and associated social change. In the second decade of the new millennium we are

experiencing further changes connected to globalization, the emergence of the information technology, climate change and the need for sustainable and regenerative buildings and cities. With these changes, it seems essential to look at the urban building in ways that can help us to understand historical tradition and those aspects of buildings that do not (or should not change) as well as the need for a pragmatic and creative approach to the development of new forms and new characteristics of buildings.

The purpose of this course is to develop understandings of urban buildings as meaningful and functional artifacts, and of the relationship between the building and the city. The course will investigate several characteristic types, looking at basic configurations, meanings, functional order, and the buildings' contributions to the economic, social, and formal aspects of cities. Each will be looked at through its historical (and technological) development, exemplary contemporary buildings, and especially future prospects. Emphasis will be on American and European architecture and new urban buildings in Asia will be included. New tendencies in global urban development, or what Manuel Castells calls the "space of flow," such as global capital development and global social development, especially urban migration, refugees, and need for more housing are part of the discussion.

It is hoped that this course will provide both a general historical and cultural background to students interested in the architecture of cities, as well as specific understandings that might be more immediately helpful in the design studio and the understanding of the modern contemporary buildings.

Understanding the urban building within the urban context can be approached within the framework of urban building typology and

urban structure morphology as well as other approaches. The building types to be examined have been chosen because of their fundamental difference in basic configuration, and the ability for that difference to help illustrate both basic theory, and the rich variety that cities embody.

The emphasis in the instructors' presentations will be on historical and 20th century material; **the emphasis in the student projects will be on contemporary urban buildings and hybrid building types that grow out of the historic building types or are completely new types.** Projects will include design speculations in addition to documentary research.

FINAL PROJECT: The final Project will be a refined and finished version of the project presented during week 4 or 5 and 9 (final). It will be presented in primarily graphic format (hard poster), and as a multi-media presentation (digital).

TENTATIVE TOPICS FOR EACH WEEK:

Week 1:

TYPE: CONFIGURATIONS, MEANINGS AND FUNCTION. THE URBAN BUILDING AND URBAN SPACE

Week 2:

URBAN TYPE AND URBAN LOCATION (H. Davis)

Week 3:

THE TOWN HALL, MARKETS AND RETAIL STORES – PDX CITY WALK

Week 4:

LIVING OVER THE STORE (H. Davis)

Student Debate

Week 5:

MIXED USE BUILDING/GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

MID_REVIEW: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Week 6:

SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND PRISONS

Week 7: WARE HOUSES AND FACTORIES

Week 8: RAILWAY STATIONS, TERMINALS AND AIRPORTS

Or: MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOUSING AND SHELTERS

Week 9: STUDENT FINAL PRESENTATIONS

(Please note that this calendar is tentative and may be adjusted according to the needs of the seminar by the weekly more detailed calendar.)

COURSE FORMAT AND

REQUIREMENTS There will be a one 3-hour session per week, to include presentations by the instructor, discussions of readings and presentations of student projects. These projects will include both analysis of historical and contemporary buildings and short design exercises intended to help understanding of building configurations and their relationship to urban space. All students are required to do the weekly readings, to participate in class discussions, and to develop an interim presentation, and a final presentation.

READINGS 1. Thomas Markus, *Buildings and Power*; 2. Nikolaus Pevsner, *A History of Building Types*; 3. Aldo Rossi, *The Architecture of the City*; 4. Howard Davis, *Living over the Store*; 5. Alexander Cuthbert, *Understanding Cities* 6. C. Norberg-Schulz, *The Concept of Dwelling*. In addition, selected articles are used for each session. Two students each will lead weekly discussion sessions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understanding of Urban Building Types in their historic evolution, in their contemporary use and design, and with regard to their possible future development.
2. Beginning to understand urban building types in their morphological urban context.

Dr. Hajo Neis is the Director of Portland Urban Architecture Research Lab (PUARL) (puarl.uoregon.edu) and is interested in the structure and design of the city and its constituent parts, that is buildings, open spaces, patterns and building types. He is also a co-director of the 'Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism CIU' (www.inclusiveurbanism.edu) that deals with diversity and inclusion in the city. He conducts yearly conferences on Pattern and Pattern Languages. This academic year he is conducting research on the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East. For questions please contact hajoneis@uoregon.edu.