Macau-Zhuhai: Investigating Public Spaces in the Chinese City
ARCH6702 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN URBAN THEORY

MArch 1, Term 2, 2012, Tuesday 2:30-5:15pm, Rm 608A, Instructor: Prof. Hendrik Tieben

The theory seminar ARC6702 is related to the design studio ARC5120 and focuses on public spaces in the border cities Macau and Zhuhai.

Macau has a long developed experience of designing public spaces based on Portuguese and Chinese experiences. With the World Heritage listing of the Historic Center of Macau, the open spaces of the former Portuguese enclave are experiencing the effects of mass tourism. In addition, there are evolving new forms of public spaces in private developments within the integrated resort of the gambling industry.

Zhuhai on the opposite site of the border of Macau was an early Special Economic Zone of China and a laboratory of an early Chinese "Ecocity". I was ranked as China’s most livable cities. In the last 30 years here new forms of public spaces were created and the next years will bring massive new developments especially in the area of Hengqin Island.
The seminar continues earlier investigations on Public Space Guide Lines, Public Space in Shopping Malls, and Waterfronts. It is divided in empirical and theoretical studies.

OBJECTIVE
The objective of the seminar is to address following questions:

- What are the characters and usages of public spaces in Macau and Zhuhai
- What are the challenges and potentials of the relationship between commercial developments and public space and how much commercial activity is needed to create for vital public space?
- What is the relationship between public and political space?
- What is the cultural role of public space in private developments (shopping malls)?
- How can public space design be evaluated?
- How can public spaces be designed which are vital, livable and have a sense of place?
**COURSE FORMAT**

The seminar is organized as a combination of field trips, lectures and readings. The reading sessions will be the main part of the course activities. Each of these sessions will be guided by one presenting and one moderating student. The course is designed complementary to the ARC 5120 Design Studio and introduces empirical methods and theoretical approaches to study public spaces. Due to the organization of the design studio, Part 1 of the seminar will introduce empirical approaches to support the site investigations. Part II is exploring theoretical aspects of public space questioning its relationship to consumer culture, and its role as political space. It particular will focus on the particular conditions of public space in China.

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

The studio and seminar also will be connected to an international symposium in collaboration with the Architecture Association Macau and various international speakers in Macau. Students are expected to attend this event.

**FIELDTRIPS**

The studio and seminar will require also several field trips to Macau and Zhuhai. Students will need to arrange their visas for these trips.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

*Presentation*

Each student will present one text and lead with the moderator the discussion in the seminar session (30min PPP). He/she should identify three key quotes (each max 100words) which will be posted after the seminar on the course website and studio booklet. These quotes should present the key concepts of the text and/or raise questions in the current context. The presenting student has to prepare soft copies of their text for the course participants one week in advance to make sure that each student will read it before the seminar session.

*Paper*
Each student will write one paper (10 A4 pages) on seminar related issues. For students which also join the design studio the paper should be related to the issues addressed in their project. For other students the topic can be formulated in discussion with the instructor. In the paper, students should integrate and further explore the empirical and/or theoretical approaches of the seminar. Text layout should follow the layout of the studio booklet. All images have to have captions and all references must be included. Own analytical drawings, photos, and surveys should complement the text. Ideally, every paper should make contributions for public space guidelines in both cities.

Participation
Each student is required to read each seminar text before the seminar session and prepare at least three written questions to allow a substantial and informed discussion. Each student has to moderate one seminar session. Students will upload their paper abstracts and the selected quotes on the course website. As a team they will also edit the course booklet which will combine studio and seminar work.

PAPER DEADLINE
Paper and collective course booklet: Monday May 10, 2012

ASSESSMENT
Participation: 20%, presentation: 20%, paper: 60%* (10 A4 pages)

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Knowledge of fundamental theories and research methods in urban studies and design
- Critical positioning of own design work and writing in context of contemporary urban theories.
- Improvement of advanced presentation, writing and discussion skills.
- Ability to define own research projects
- Preparation for thesis project
- Ability of team work

COURSE WEBSITE
http://publicspacenet.ning.com/
ACADEMIC HONESTY
Refer to http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Public space design


**Streets as public space**


**Political, cultural, and economical aspects of public space (Urban Studies)**


**Hong Kong:**
Abbas, A., Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1997.

Bristow, R, Land Use Planning in Hong Kong, Oxford University Press, Hong Kong, 1984.


Ng, Janet, Paradigm city: space, culture, and capitalism in Hong Kong, Albany: SUNY Press, 2009.

Smith, Peter Cookson, The urban design of impermanence: streets, places and spaces in Hong Kong, Hong Kong: MCCM Creations, 2006.

**China:**


**Thesis Report**

William Luk, *Public Space Regulations and Guidelines in HK & NY*, CUHK, School of Architecture, Hong Kong, 2009

**BUDGET see ARC5120 Studio**