ARCH3110
Architecture Design Studio U5: Building, Context, Place

2011-12 Term 1
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DESCRIPTION

The idea of relating a building to its context represents a basic understanding in designing architecture on a site, and in the company of other buildings. At the level of building, it exploits the unique quality of a site, informs the placement of building, and shapes the inside-outside relationship. At the contextual level, it considers architecture as a part of the city, and contributes to the making of public places.

In traditional societies, this architectural response is obvious - a house forming a part of a village, several houses forming a village square, and a village fitting seamlessly into the rural context. With increasing demand for individuality, larger scale of cities, and rapid urbanization, this fundamental requirement of architecture is often ignored. 'Contextual design' is sometimes argued to be of lesser importance given the vast scale, and internal concerns of architecture today. Yet the making of connectivity, openness, and publicness in architecture is ever more pressing in the contemporary city, for it alleviates isolation, fosters tolerance, and gives pleasure and meaning to places.

This studio investigates contextual response and place making in architecture. The studio searches for the design of building and space so as to respond to: 1) the disintegration of urban fabric; 2) the ineffective use of space; and 3) the lack of a coherent urban strategic plan. Behind the studio is an attempt to use architecture as a tool to explore alternative urban strategies to the current architectural and planning practices in Hong Kong.

The project includes mapping and urban strategy, analyzing and contextual response, and articulating and place making. The third and longest part of studio focuses on the design of a building and its public spaces.

OBJECTIVES

• Able to observe, document, and interpret conditions of a site;
• Able to achieve building/site strategies and contextual response;
• Able to create common spaces and public expressions;
• Able to speculate on and design with an urban strategy.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

(To be confirmed)

COURSE FORMAT

Studio Sessions:  Monday, Thursday 1:30-6:30pm

REFERENCE BOOK

Benevolo, Leonardo, The history of the city, HT111.B4513 1980b
Le Corbusier, Urbanisme, the city of to-morrow and its planning, NA9030.J413 1947a
Lynch, Kevin, The Image of the city, NA9108.L9 1964 c.2
Rossi, Aldo, The architecture of the city, NA9031.R6713 1982
Rowe, Colin & Koetter, Fred, Collage city, NA9050.R68

SCHEDULE

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FIELD TRIP
(please check the boxes)
[ / ] Yes  [ / ] Local; [ ] Overseas  →  Date(s): Destination(s):

[ ] No

SAME COURSE OFFERED BEFORE (student has taken the same course is not allowed to retake)
(please check the boxes)
[ ] Yes  →  Offer year [ ]  →  Term [ ]  →  Course code [ ARC ]

[ ] No

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENT:
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 will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.