

CITY DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS – FALL 2021

COURSE SYLLABUS



College of Architecture and Planning
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

SCHEDULE: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:45 PM

SECTIONS: URBN 6525-001, ARCH 6270-001, LDAR 6686-002, URPL 6350-001

FORMAT: In-person, CU Denver Building, 1250 14th Street, Room 3301

INSTRUCTOR: Ken Schroepfel AICP, Director of Urban Design, Assistant Professor CTT

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, Noon – 2:00 PM or by appointment, Room 507

CONTACT: ken.schroepfel@ucdenver.edu

COURSE TOPICS:

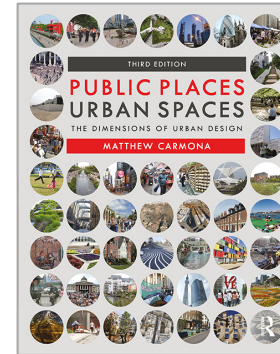
City Design Fundamentals is a core course in the MUD program and a recommended elective for all graduate students in the College. This interdisciplinary course explores the formation and design of cities, the urban form and its transformation over time, and the common perspectives shared by planners and designers in contemporary city-building.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The curriculum for this course has the following learning outcomes:

- Understand the historical formation, development, and evolution of cities and the foundational concepts of urban design.
- Understand the economic, cultural, and environmental forces that shape the urban form of cities over time.
- Understand the physical components and spatial characteristics of the urban form and how they are described, measured, and regulated.
- Understand the nature of urban design as the nexus of architecture, urban planning, and landscape architecture and its practice through interdisciplinary collaboration.

REQUIRED TEXT:



Public Spaces Urban Places – The Dimensions of Urban Design

New 3rd edition released in 2021, this 690-page text by Matthew Carmona provides a complete overview of the theories, concepts, methodologies, standards, and practices of urban design in great detail. Five chapters from this book are required reading for this course and the remaining chapters will be of great interest to anyone engaged in urban design. The book is available in paperback format from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1138113811) or the publisher [Routledge](https://www.routledge.com/9781138113811) for \$53. Routledge also has an e-textbook option available at the same price with a free [VitalSource](https://www.vitalsource.com/) account.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Students have access in Canvas to PDFs of selected pages from the books below as reading assignments. These books also provide excellent coverage of the topics we discuss in class.

- *A Better Way to Zone* (Elliott)
- *Changing Lanes: Visions and Histories of Urban Freeways* (DiMento, Ellis)
- *City Rules: How Regulations Affect Urban Form* (Talen)
- *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History* (Kostof)
- *The Code of the City: Standards and the Hidden Language of Placemaking* (Ben-Joseph)
- *Dead End: Suburban Sprawl and the Rebirth of American Urbanism* (Ross)
- *The Evolution of Urban Form: Typology for Planners and Architects* (Scheer)
- *Good City Form* (Lynch)
- *Streets and Patterns* (Marshall)
- *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and Decline of the American Dream* (Duany, et. al.)

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

Class assignments may involve the use of any of the following software applications: Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, and PowerPoint); Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign); Esri ArcGIS; and Trimble SketchUp. Students are not expected to be experts in the use of these applications but having working knowledge of some of these applications will be helpful to complete the course assignments.

ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:

Attendance and active participation in class is a vital part of this course. If you are not present for class, you cannot actively engage in class discussions or work with your classmates on team assignments. Therefore, attendance each week is expected. However, if you need to miss class for a personal emergency, religious holiday, or some other situation, please let Ken know in advance. Active participation in class means:

- Responding to questions in a manner that demonstrates being prepared for class
- Voluntarily asking questions and offering observations about the topics being discussed
- Cooperatively engaging with other students in group exercises, team assignments, and class activities

Students are expected to adhere to the university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and present themselves in class in a professional manner.

Out of the 1,000 possible points for the class, 100 points are reserved for Professional Conduct. Every student will begin the semester with all 100 points, and points will be deducted only when violations of professional conduct occur.

ASSIGNMENTS:

This course uses CU Denver's Canvas platform for disseminating course documents, uploading submitted assignments, sending group messages, and other class functions. An assignment must be uploaded to Canvas no later than 90 minutes before class begins on the date it is due, based on the Canvas system's timestamp, for the assignment to be graded at 100% value. This means that assignments are due by **12:30 PM**. An assignment submitted after the deadline but within one week of the due date/time will receive 95% of

the points earned for that assignment (points earned x 0.95). An assignment submitted more than one week late will receive 90% of the points earned (points earned x 0.90).

In the event you experience technical difficulties in uploading a file to Canvas, you may send Ken an email with the assignment file attached and the assignment will be considered as being submitted on-time, as long as the email is sent before the due date and time, based on the university's email system timestamp.

PRINT TO PDF:

Students are required to submit assignments in PDF format. A file containing many images or large graphics can easily become too large to be emailed or uploaded to Canvas if "save to PDF" or "export to PDF" is used within the original application. Doing so often results in huge file sizes—PDF files that are too large for Canvas or email. However, using the "print to PDF" option will result in small PDF file sizes without any loss in resolution quality.

In order to "print to PDF" you first must have Adobe Acrobat Pro DC installed on your computer (available as part of the Adobe Creative Cloud suite). When installing Adobe Acrobat Pro DC, the software automatically adds "PDF" to the list of available printers on your computer. For Windows users, select File > Print and choose "Adobe PDF" from the Printer drop-down box. For Mac users, select File > Print, click on "PDF" from the small drop-down box at the bottom, and then select "Save as PDF." All computers in the CAP computer labs have Adobe Acrobat Pro DC installed if you do not have a personal license to this application.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS) at CU Denver. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student's request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. The Disability Resources and Services office will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved. Once you provide me with a copy of DRS's letter, I will provide any accommodations that DRS has approved.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are expected to understand and comply with the university's ethical standards, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without attribution. The following are forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted:

- Copying word-for-word another person's ideas or words
- Creating a "mosaic" (interspersing your own words within another's work)
- Paraphrasing (rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories)
- Fabricating (inventing) sources
- Submitting another person's work as your own
- Neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes

For assistance on plagiarism and general writing help, please visit the [CU Denver Writing Center](#). To avoid plagiarism, students must provide proper citation of text and materials authored by others in all assignments using the MLA documentation style. For a free online MLA Style Guide, please go [here](#).

COMMUNICATION:

Unless otherwise noted, Ken will contact you via the messaging system in Canvas or your university email. Please make sure you check your university email regularly and adjust your message notification settings in Canvas to ensure you receive all class communications.

GRADED COURSE COMPONENTS:

Component	Max Points
Exercise 1: Hometown History	100
Exercise 2: Topic Presentation	200
Exercise 3: Deconstructing Urban Form	300
Exercise 4: Urban Morphology Story	300
Attendance and Professional Conduct	100
Total	1,000

GRADING SCALE:

Total Points	Grade	Grade Range Description
934 – 1000	A	Exceptional scholarship and superior work products that significantly exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality
900 – 933	A-	
867 – 899	B+	Commendable scholarship and accomplished work products that somewhat exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality
834 – 866	B	
800 – 833	B-	
767 – 799	C+	Satisfactory scholarship and work products that almost meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality
734 – 766	C	
700 – 733	C-	
667 – 699	D+	Inadequate scholarship and inferior work products that clearly fail to meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality
634 – 666	D	
600 – 633	D-	
599 or less	F	Unacceptable scholarship and work product

COURSE CALENDAR:

Each week, class will run from **2:00 to 4:45 PM**, a total of 165 minutes, divided into three learning periods totaling 150 minutes that are separated by one 10-minute break and one 5-minute break. The calendar on the following page shows the weekly activities, due dates, and other class components for the semester. This calendar will be updated as needed throughout the semester.

August 25		September 1		September 8		September 15		September 22	
WEEK 01	COURSE INTRODUCTION	WEEK 02	URBAN FORM METRICS	WEEK 03	URBAN DESIGN OF DOWNTOWN DENVER	WEEK 04	HISTORY OF CITY FORMS	WEEK 05	HISTORY OF CITY FORMATIONS
Period 1	Introductions, Syllabus Review	Period 1	Lecture: Land Division	Period 1–3	Downtown Denver Walking Tour	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations
Period 2	Lecture: Brief History of Urban Development	Period 2	Lecture: Land Development			Period 2	In-Class Exercise: Transformational Forces	Period 2	In-Class Exercise: City Formation Models
Period 3	In-Class Exercise: Urban Terms Defined Introduction: Exercises 1 and 2	Period 3	In-Class Exercise: Why Urban Form Matters			Period 3	Lecture: Denver's Settlement Era	Period 3	Lecture: City Formations US and Abroad
Assigned	Exercise 1: Hometown History	Assigned	Downtown Denver: Heart of the Queen video	Due	Downtown Denver: Heart of the Queen video	Read	Good City Form (Lynch), Chapter 1	Read	Good City Form (Lynch), Chapter 4
Assigned	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations					Read	The City Shaped (Kostof), Introduction	Read	Code of the City (Ben-Joseph), Chapters 1–2
						Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 4)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 5)
						Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 4)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 5)
September 29		October 6		October 13		October 20		October 27	
WEEK 06	URBAN FORM COMPONENTS	WEEK 07	URBAN MORPHOLOGY	WEEK 08	CITY-BUILDING PROFESSIONS	WEEK 09	SUBURBAN FORMS	WEEK 10	NEW URBANISM
Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations
Period 2	Lecture: Urban Form Components	Period 2	In-Class Exercise: Urban Form Physical Changes	Period 2	Guest Panel: Urban Design Practice	Period 2	Lecture: Denver's 20th Century	Period 2	Main Street Colorado Photo Tour
Period 3	Introduction: Exercise 3	Period 3	Lecture: Urban Morphology Overview Introduction: Exercise 4	Period 3	Course Reflection #1	Period 3	Lecture: Denver's Territorial Growth Lecture: Denver's Streets	Period 3	Guest Lecture: New Urbanism and Main Street
Read	Evolution of Urban Form (Scheer), Chapters 1–2	Read	Public Places Urban Spaces (Carmona), Chapter 5	Read	Public Places Urban Spaces (Carmona), Chapter 1	Read	Suburban Nation (Duany), Chapters 1–2	Read	New Urbanism Charter and Lexicon (GNU)
Read	Streets and Patterns (Marshall), Chapter 4	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 7)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 8)	Read	Changing Lanes (DiMento), Chapter 4	Read	New Urbanism Critiques and Rebuttals (Ellis)
Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 6)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 7)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 8)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 9)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 10)
Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 6)	Assigned	Exercise 4: Urban Morphology Story	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 9)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 9)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 10)
Assigned	Exercise 3: Deconstructing the Urban Form							Due	Exercise 3: Deconstructing the Urban Form
November 3		November 10		November 17		November 24		December 1	
WEEK 11	URBAN RENAISSANCE	WEEK 12	URBAN FORM POLITICS	WEEK 13	URBAN FORM REGULATION	WEEK 14	FALL BREAK	WEEK 15	URBAN FORM OF PUBLIC SPACES
Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations			Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations
Period 2	Lecture: Denver's Central Platte Valley	Period 2	Discussion: Battle for Brooklyn Video	Period 2	Guest Panel: Urban Form Regulation			Period 2	Guest Lecture: The Personality of Public Spaces
Period 3	Guest Case Study: The River Mile	Period 3	Guest Panel: Development Politics in Denver	Period 3	Exercise 4 Team Meetings			Period 3	Guest Case Study: River North Park
Read	Dead End (Ross), Chapter 10	Read	Community Resistance Discretionary Strategies	Read	A Better Way to Zone (Elliott), Chapter 1			Read	Public Places Urban Spaces (Carmona), Chapter 6
Read	Metropolitan Revolution (Katz/Bradley), Chapter 3	Read	How Minneapolis Ended Single-Family Zoning	Read	City Rules (Talen), Chapter 5			Read	Public Places Urban Spaces (Carmona), Chapter 8
Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 11)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 12)	Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 13)			Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 15)
Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 11)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 12)	Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 13)			Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 15)
Assigned	Battle for Brooklyn video	Due	Battle for Brooklyn video					Assigned	Bogotá - Building a Sustainable City video
December 8		December 15							
WEEK 16	URBAN FORM AND EQUITY	WEEK 17	COURSE CONCLUSION						
Period 1	Exercise 1 and 2 Presentations	Period 1	Exercise 4 Presentations, Part 1						
Period 2	Discussion: Bogotá - Sustainable City Video	Period 2	Exercise 4 Presentations, Part 2						
Period 3	Lecture: Social Equity and Urban Form	Period 3	Course Reflection #2						
Read	Public Places Urban Spaces (Carmona), Chapter 7								
Read	Planning with Diverse Communities, Chapter 3								
Due	Exercise 1: Hometown History (Week 16)	Due	Exercise 4: Urban Morphology Story						
Due	Exercise 2: Topic Presentations (Week 16)								
Due	Bogotá - Building a Sustainable City video								