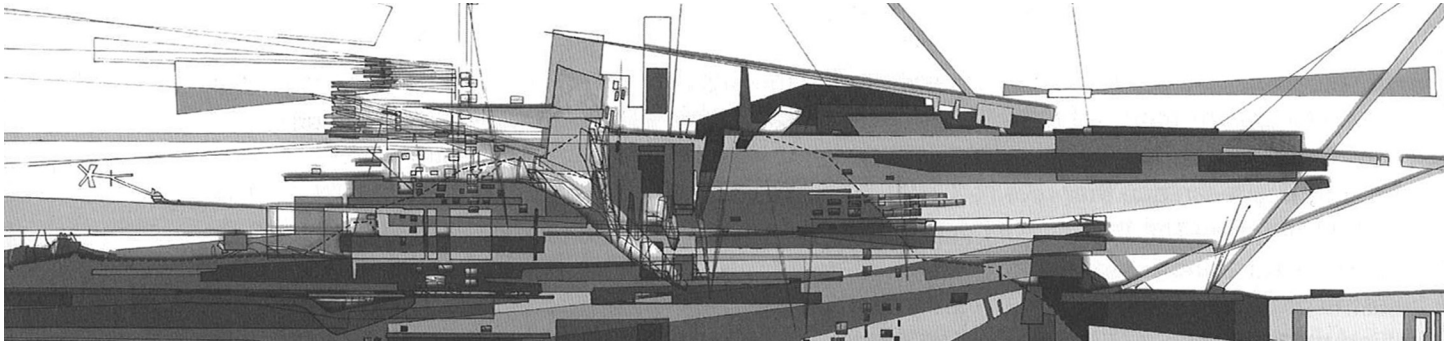


agents of change

Fall 2008 critical exploration elective | Thursdays 2 - 4:45 [Storrs 268]

Instructors | Jennifer Shields [j.shields@uncc.edu] Bryan Shields [bryan.shields@uncc.edu]

Office Hours | by appointment [Storrs 242]



PREMISE

Do Something Now. Daily we are faced with issues of societal and environmental degradation. As members of the creative class, we as designers should be at the forefront of bringing awareness, specificity, and potential solutions to our communities. A number of designers in a variety of creative fields have begun to both graphically reveal and physically address these issues, and there is a lot to be learned from their initiative.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is for students to develop a methodology for designers to draw attention to and propose solutions to social and environmental problems at a variety of scales through a survey of contemporary work in this realm. This methodology begins with data collection, filtration, distillation, and graphic representation. This data must then be analysed and interpreted to compell action. In addition to designers who have mapped specific concerns or issues, we will also explore the development of interventions addressing needs of the local and global community. When used to tackle particular social or environmental concerns, the knowledge gained through a graphic exploration can be used as a foundation for an intervention to mitigate the problem at hand.

CONTENT

The methodologies we will be studying which result in compelling graphic representations (maps) and/or physical interventions within the context of urbanism and ecology focus on one or more of the following issues:

Mapping + Subvertising | Housing + Public Space | Temporary Structures

Food + Water | Climate + Energy | Industry + Adaptive Reuse | Materials + [De]construction

We will study conceptual and realized projects by artists, architects, and activists that seek to bring awareness and action to specific problems facing society and the environment.

METHOD

The course will be graphics-based: aside from readings, all lectures, presentations, and proposals will primarily convey information through visual means. The first half of the semester will consist of lectures by the instructors and others involved in this area of research, multi-media tools, and student-led discussions in response to lecture content, readings, and projects. We will communicate throughout the week via a class weblog; readings will be linked to the class blog weekly. [<http://aoc08.wordpress.com>]

The remainder of the semester will be individual presentations and pin-ups addressing projects #1 and #2. Project #1 - data collection and graphic representation within each of the aforementioned topics addressing the student's studio site for a total of 6 maps.

Project #2 - design intervention proposals based on research from Project #1, presented to the class and outside reviewers. Proposals will be formatted to become part of an internal publication.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| [01] August 28th | INTRODUCTION: URBANISM + ECOLOGY |
| [02] September 4th | MAPPING + SUBVERTISING
readings |
| [03] September 11th | MATERIALS + [DE]CONSTRUCTION
readings |
| [04] September 18th | TEMPORARY PORTABLE STRUCTURES
readings |
| [05] September 25th | HOUSING + PUBLIC SPACE
readings |
| [06] October 2nd | CLIMATE + ENERGY
readings |
| [07] October 9th | FOOD + WATER
readings |
| [08] October 16th | FILM: <i>THE END OF SUBURBIA</i>
readings |
| [09] October 23th | INDUSTRY + ADAPTIVE REUSE
readings |
| [10] October 30th | MAPPING PIN-UP
six [6] maps due |
| [11] November 6th | WORK DAY
meet individually with instructors |
| [12] November 13th | STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
revised maps and schematic intervention proposal due |
| [13] November 20th | STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
revised maps and schematic intervention proposal due |
| [14] November 27th | THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| [15] December 4th | WRAP UP |
| [16] December 11th | NO CLASS FINAL PROJECTS DUE
formatted maps and finalized intervention proposal due |

EVALUATION

Participation	20%
Mapping	40%
Proposal	40%

Graduate students will be expected to assist the instructors in cataloguing student work, in addition to the previously stated course requirements.

Work ethic, intellectual rigor, and product are expected to be at a level commensurate with your year level. As in all other courses in the College of Architecture, work completed for this course must comply with the UNCC Code of Academic Integrity. You are expected to participate in this class in a way that exhibits that you clearly understand that your education is explicitly your responsibility and requires your full engagement – that it is not something you do for a grade, but something you do for the intrinsic value it adds to your life.

UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Accordingly we celebrate diversity that includes but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Grades will conform to the University grading scale and will be based on progress as well as product. The following grading scale will apply.

Undergraduate

A Outstanding - Meets or exceeds stated requirements of the course; exhibits significant improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; exhibits exemplary self-motivation, time management, and/or leadership skills; exhibits a desire to question and critique him or herself and to pursue new ideas and/or technical skills; contributes significantly and consistently to class discussions and activities

B Good - Meets stated requirements of the course (all work complete and on time); exhibits improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; exhibits good self-motivation and time management skills; participates meaningfully and often in class discussions and activities

C Average - Meets most requirements of the course (most work complete and on time); exhibits limited improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; exhibits average self-motivation and time management skills; participates minimally in class discussions and activities

D Marginal - Substantially fails to meet stated requirements of the course (work incomplete and/or late); OR exhibits little or no improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; OR exhibits inadequate self-motivation and/or meaningful and regular participation in class discussions and activities; OR fails to substantially understand and/or execute the concepts and skills required for the course

F Failing - Fails to meet stated requirements of the course (work consistently incomplete and/or late); OR exhibits little or no self-motivation and/or participation in class discussions and activities; OR fails to understand and/or execute the concepts and skills required for the course

NOTE: A grade of Incomplete for an individual assignment or for the entirety of the class can only be issued if the relevant circumstances are discussed before a grade is assigned.

EVALUATION [CONT'D]

Graduate

A Outstanding - Meets or exceeds stated requirements of the course; exhibits exemplary improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; exhibits strong self-motivation, time management, and/or leadership skills; exhibits a desire and ability to question and critique him or herself and to pursue new ideas and/or technical skills; contributes significantly and consistently to class discussions and activities

B Satisfactory - Meets stated requirements of the course (all work complete and on time); exhibits some improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; exhibits average self-motivation and time management skills; participates meaningfully and often in class discussions and activities

C Marginal - Fails to meet stated requirements of the course (work incomplete and/or late); OR exhibits little or no improvement in understanding and/or execution over the course of the semester; OR exhibits limited self-motivation and/or meaningful and regular participation in class discussions and activities; OR fails to substantially understand and/or execute the concepts and skills required for the course

U Unsatisfactory - Fails to meet stated requirements of the course (work consistently incomplete and/or late); OR exhibits little or no self-motivation and/or participation in class discussions and activities; OR fails to understand and/or execute the concepts and skills required for the course

NOTE: A grade of Incomplete for an individual assignment or for the entirety of the class can only be issued if the relevant circumstances are discussed before a grade is assigned.

Attendance is mandatory. While it is not calculated as a percentage of your grade, being absent from class without prior approval from the instructor will have the following consequences:

More than one unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade (for example an A would drop to a B) and more than three unexcused absences will result in automatic failure. Please note that these requirements may be more stringent than those of the University or of other courses or studios within the SoA. Absences are excused only for medical conditions and personal or family emergencies. The Instructor may require documentation for any excused absence.

No cell phones.

AGENTS OF CHANGE | READINGS

[01] August 28th URBANISM + ECOLOGY

[02] September 4th MAPPING, COMMUNICATING, + SUBVERTISING

Corner, James, ed. Reclaimed Landscapes. "Eidetic Operations and New Landscapes," James Corner.
Corner, James, ed. Reclaimed Landscapes. "Synthetic Regionalization," Bart Lootsma.

[03] September 11th MATERIALS + [DE]CONSTRUCTION

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle. New York: North Point Press, 2002. pp.17-44.
Dyson, Anna. "Recombinant Assemblies." Architectural Design Vol 72 No. 5 Sept/Oct 2002. pp. 60-66.
Weisman, Alan. The World Without Us. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2007. pp.15-38.

[04] September 18th TEMPORARY|PORTABLE STRUCTURES

Lewis, Jim. "The Exigent City." The New York Times Magazine 08 Jun. 2008: 30-38.
Architecture for Humanity. Design Like You Give A Damn. New York: Metropolis Books, 2006. xx-xx.
Busch, Akiko. "An Argument for Seasonal Architecture." Metropolis October 2004. 88.

[05] September 25th HOUSING + PUBLIC SPACE

Till, Jeremy. "Architecture of the Impure Community." Occupying Architecture: Between the Architect and the User. Ed. Jonathan Hill. London: Routledge, 1998. 61-75.
Bell, Bryan, ed. Good Deeds, Good Design: Community Service Through Architecture. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2004. xx-xx.
Corner, James, ed. Reclaimed Landscapes. "Programming the Urban Surface," Alex Wall.
Sorkin, Michael.

[06] October 2nd CLIMATE + ENERGY

SITE. On Site On Energy. New York: SITE, 1974.

[07] October 9th FOOD + WATER

Ventkataraman, Bina. "Country, the City Version: Farms in the Sky Gain New Interest." The New York Times 15 Jul. 2008: xx.
Mooallem, Jon. "Guerilla Gardening." The New York Times 15 Jul. 2008: xx.

[08] October 16th [FILM]

[09] October 23th INDUSTRY + ADAPTIVE REUSE

Berger, Alan. Drosscape. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.
The Landscape Urbanism Reader. Alan Berger.

[10] - [16] NO READINGS

Wigley, Mark. "Recycling Recycling." Eco-Tec: Architecture of the In-Between. Ed. Amerigo Marras. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999. 39-49.
Wines, James. "Jewel in the Balance." Eco-Tec: Architecture of the In-Between. Ed. Amerigo Marras. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999. 109-116.
De Botton, Alain. The Architecture of Happiness.
Mau, Bruce. Massive Change. New York: Phaidon Press, 2004. xx-xx.
MVRDV