

Classes: each Thursday between 14.00 and 16.30, starting from February 9th – see timetable below
Classroom: K. 211.
Consultants: SZABÓ, Árpád, DLA, architect – arpszabo@hotmail.com

Practical design course of the 6th semester of the curriculum.

A special urban design course of the Department of Urban Planning and Design focusing mainly on urban public space design. The course is a partly theoretical and partly practical where students get acquainted with special issues and problems of the notion of public space, public spaces usage and public space design. In the design assignment all students deal with one common theme, where starting from the analysis of a greater urban entity we narrow down the design problems to handling the publicly attainable spaces in between buildings.

The semester deals with the undeveloped (unbuilt) areas of cities, but mainly with the areas of public domain that are well complemented by the privately owned undeveloped areas that are accessible from public spaces. The course approaches the issues of environmental design from the direction of the character of open spaces and not from the direction of architectural design.

“Public space relates to all those parts of the built and natural environment, public and private, internal and external, urban and rural, where the public have free, although not necessarily unrestricted, access. It encompasses: all the streets, squares and other rights of way, whether predominantly in residential, commercial or community/civic uses; the open spaces and parks; the open countryside; the public/private spaces both internal and external where public access is welcomed – if controlled – such as private shopping centers or rail and bus stations; and the interiors of key public and civic buildings such as libraries, churches, or town halls.”

THEME OF THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 2017

LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY

A great variety of leisure activities are having their renaissance in Budapest and slowly, but steadily they are completely transforming the relation of city-dwellers to public space. Biking, jogging, skateboard, hiking is becoming more and more common while thousands of people are participating on the major street-running festivals in spring and in autumn. What are these activities, where do they occur? Who is participating in them? Do they form urban networks and do they have their proper built infrastructure? Do they need permanent buildings or just temporary installations?

SITE OF THE SEMESTER: PEOPLE'S ISLAND AND ÚJPEST WINTER HARBOUR, BUDAPEST

The semester consists of one semester project that will be accompanied by lectures and smaller presentations directly or partially connected to the design task. Through the lectures and smaller research oriented smaller tasks we will try to get an understanding of various aspects of public space design.

Most of the classes will be organized around a specific theme, where besides the special lectures we will discuss the small tasks handed out the previous class connected to the theme.

During the semester students will have to work in groups, but taking part in the discussion of all the projects is also an important part of the course.

Consultation of the group work is through computer (beamer) presentations of the prepared work and is always a group consultation, so a very important part of the semester work is to learn the basic skills of presenting your ideas in short computer presentations. All course presentations will have to be prepared in a computer format (pdf) and will have to be uploaded to a common “Google Drive” folder.

At several occasions (preliminary project presentation and final presentation) the project will have to be printed in A3 format as well. Building and using models for the design process will also be an important part of the task.

The semester task will be accompanied by some recommended reading assignments.

Materials and study-aids of the semester can be downloaded from the common “Google Drive” folder:

TIME_TABLE (PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE – MIGHT STILL CHANGE!)

		Theme / Lecture / Practical task	
1	February 9 th	first class, signing up, semester requirements - introduction of the task, definitions and methods of site research	Thematic program
2	February 16 th	presentation of the first individual task	
3	February 23 rd	defining the field of research topics	
4	March 2 nd	thematic research – defining networks	
	March 9 th	consultation	
5	March 16 th	first preliminary presentation – Thematic program / research	Project program
6	March 23 rd	consultation	
7	March 30 ^h	consultation	
8	April 6 th	second preliminary presentation – Site research / program	Project program
10	April 13 th	Intensive Design Studio Week – independent from the course – NO CLASS	
11	April 20 th	consultation	Small group project
12	April 27 th	consultation	
13	May 4 th	consultation	
14	May 11 th	FINAL PRESENTATION IN CLASSROOM	
	May 15-19	studio week	
	May 19 th	late handing-in deadline (only for the ones, who have not passed the final presentation)	

Requirements of the semester

A negligence to present the projects on March 16th, April 6st and May 11th results in a failure in the semester! No semester project is accepted after May 15th! According to university regulations class appearance has to exceed 70%! Work during term period (appearance, presentations, participation) is going to be included in the semester grades! Attendance means active attendance so it is only accepted if you prepare material for class!

Only those students who have already passed all prerequisite subjects can attend the class!

The semester consists of three phases accompanied by three compulsory presentations:

1st preliminary presentation:

THEMATIC PROGRAMME and CONCEPT FOR THE THEMATIC NETWORK: for the “whole city”, photos, analysis maps, finding interest areas or interest fields, possible strategies, denoting the location of the “action areas” (maps 1:10000, 1:2000, photos), explanation of the programme, worked out in groups of 4-5

2st preliminary presentation:

SITE RESEARCH and CONCEPT FOR ONE ELEMENT OF THE THEMATIC NETWORK definition of intervention sites, photos, analysis maps, denoting the location of the “action areas” (maps 1:2000, 1:1000, photos, analysis maps), worked out in groups of 6 and groups of 2

Final presentation:

PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN PROJECT of one part (the exact definition of the projects is defined through consultations in the semester), have to be worked out in groups of 2 (maps, 1:1000, 1:500-200 sections, 1:500-200 site plans, sketches, model !)

At all submission dates, all drawings of former presentations that have been altered in the process of design have to be submitted again.

Aspects of judgment for the semester:

- Quality and thoroughness of the research of the topic
- The relation and logical relationship between the site research and the programmatic elements of the project
- Creativity and personality of the urban concept
- The quality of the architectural character
- How much is the imagined architectural concept readable from the presentation (drawings, model, oral presentation)
- Class activity

Grading:

1st preliminary presentation:	30 points (in case of late hand in the points are decreased by 20%)
2nd preliminary presentation:	20 points (in case of late hand in the points are decreased by 20%)
Final presentation:	30 points
Activity in class	20 points

Grades:	90–100 points: excellent (5)	76-89 points: good (4)	63-75 points: satisfactory (3)
	50-62 points: pass (2)	0-49 points: fail (1)	

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:

Book in print:	Kristin Faurest: Ten Spaces; publisher: Városháza, 2010
Magazine in print:	4D Journal for Landscape Architecture and Garden Art – Issue 32.
Web based reading and resources:	Jan Gehl: Life Between Buildings - http://www.rudi.net/pages/8741 Webpage of the European Prize for Urban Public Space http://www.publicspace.org/en

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