

Architecture 3070/Architecture 8133 Special Topics in Site and Context/Arch Research Seminar 3
Spring 2013 TTH 9:30-10:50 Arch Building Room 305
Interdisciplinary: Graduate/Undergraduate
Professor Sally Harrison: sally.harrison@temple.edu

Design + Activism *Toward a Social Agenda in Making Places*



Course Description

This seminar focuses on the designer's direct engagement in critical societal issues of our time. The call to activism in design has developed in myriad interesting ways since it was first articulated over half a century ago. New design activism is expanding the agency of the professions and engaging and empowering underserved communities in the process. These emerging practices are redefining the scope and subjects of design, recasting the roles of client, public and professional, and expanding the space and temporality of discourse. From advocacy, to community participation, to representations of environmental injustice, to design-build interventions, activist practices seek to democratize design processes and build richer, more socially and ecologically responsive places.

The seminar will combine discussion of seminal texts and presentations of case studies with on-site engagement with local community organizations. We will learn about how architects, designers, artists and those who would frame policy can act on their desire to make the lived environment more sustainable and humane, and how this movement has begun to change the way we imagine practice. Intermittently we will make several site visits to local community organizations and agencies that build places for disadvantaged populations in Philadelphia, and we will welcome leaders of activist groups to share with us their experience.

Readings Throughout the semester the class will be expected to prepare for active discussion/presentation at each session with selected readings posted to Blackboard or chapters from the course text (below) that should be purchased immediately (with a significant discount) from Amazon.com.

Bell, Bryan, et al. 2008. *Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism*. New York: Metropolis Books

Seminar Participation. Students will be graded on their participation in the seminar sections. Students are expected to have carefully read the assigned texts, to have developed questions (through notes and identification of relevant passages) and be fully engaged in class discussions. In discussions students must be prepared to cite passages in the assigned texts, and are encouraged to make connections between current readings, previously assigned readings and lectures.

Site Visits during class time to local organizations will require you to travel either by foot, public transportation or to carpool. This will take extra time.

Projects. There will be three projects for which you will be responsible. The first is a group project where the class will participate in the development of an urban education event that will take place as part of the Philadelphia International Festival for the Arts. MFA candidate Jeb Stuart will lead the project and together we will engage Philadelphia youth in understanding their city. The second project--research on contemporary activist's work -- is undertaken individually and presented to the class, and written up at the end of the semester. The third is a service project in which each student will be required to spend one Saturday in a hands-on service project with a local organization (Habitat for Humanity, the Village of Arts and Humanities, or the PIFA event) and to document the experience. For the latter you must make arrangements with employers if you have a Saturday job.

Evaluation

Participation in discussion	30%
PIFA project	15%
Service engagement/document	15%
Case Study Presentation	20%
Paper	20%

Attendance is mandatory unless a medical excuse is provided. Unexcused absence from more than one class will result in final grade reduced by a half grade.

Office Hours. Prof. Harrison has office hours 9-11am Wednesdays in Architecture building room 134 or by appointment

Disabilities: Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Tyler's Academic Advisor Laurie Duffy at 215-777-9185 privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 at 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students must present the appropriate paperwork in order to receive special accommodations. Accommodations are limited to those documented by the office of Disability Resources and Services and presented in an official letter to the faculty member.

Information on cancellation of classes due to inclement weather: The University participates with the City of Philadelphia and local radio stations such as KYW (1060-AM) which broadcast code numbers indicating when classes are closed because of snow or other inclement weather. 101Day Class Cancellation

Semester Organization.

In the first weeks we will look at the antecedents of contemporary design activism, reaching back to the 19th century when changing political systems and the explosive growth of capitalist industrial technology radically changed the socio-economic landscape and settlement patterns in Western Europe and, in the early decades of the 20th century in the US. In the decades following World War II activism in Europe, America and in the developing world took different forms, but shared a common goal in resisting the hegemony of Modernism, with its unilateral approach to planning and development. In this period, questions of racial justice, cultural diversity, environmental protection and globalization set the stage for modes of practice that are developing still.

Following this period of setting the context we will explore the different models in which activist design is practiced. How do we act upon our goals of creating more democratic, sustainable and meaningful places? What

emergent institutions or practices have formed around our work? Are we re-active, pro-active, or trans-active? How do we engage our “publics”? What does it mean to be professional – and what do we deliver?

We will spend several classes immediately before the mid-semester break preparing materials and methods of engagement for the PIFA event that will take place in April.

After the break we will look at the issues, or areas of concern, that are critical to contemporary life. They include many that are age-old, such as housing and community building. Others such as relief efforts and rebuilding after environmental disaster are more recent phenomena, as are the questions surrounding health and food access, and making inclusive democratic spaces. Students will present case studies in the final week of class.

Course Schedule *Note: The schedule is subject to change. Reading assignments will be added as the semester progresses*

1	T. Jan 22 Th Jan 24	Introduction to course objectives and overview Antecedents 1: Industrialization, utopias, and reform Reading: D. Harvey; K. Stohr
2	T Jan 29 Th Jan 31	Antecedents 2: Resistance and advocacy Reading: G.DeCarlo; S. Arnstein; P.Tucker Antecedents 3: Self build and culture of place Reading: C. Alexander 91977); J.Turner
3	T Feb 5 Th. Feb 7	Practice Models 1: Design-build Reading: Gamez and Rogers (Text), S. Badanes (Text) Practice Models 2: Community design centers and <i>pro bono</i> design service <u>Guest lecturer:</u> Beth Miller, Director, Community Design Center of Philadelphia Reading: Martin and Thomas (text); D. Rastorfer (text); J.Peterson (text)
4	T Feb 12 Th Feb 14	Practice Models 3: Pro-active public expression Reading: Awan et al.; Aeschbacher and Rios (text) Practice Models 4: Public sector work <u>Visit:</u> Philadelphia Water Department Reading: TBA
5	T Feb 19 Th Feb 21	Practice Models 5: Community, education, and design Reading: H. Sanoff; R. Hester, S. Harrison PIFA: presentation of project
6	T Feb 26 Th Feb 28	PIFA: Research visit to Atheneum PIFA: In studio
7	T Mar 5 Th Mar 7	PIFA: In studio PIFA: School visit

BREAK

8	T Mar 19	Community-building
	Th Mar 21	Reading: N. Hamdi (2004); <u>Visit</u> : Project Home Reading:TBA
9	T Mar 26	Housing
	Th Mar 28	Reading: R. Feldman (text) Naslund and Shehun (text) <u>Visit</u> : Habitat for Humanity Reading: Hinson and Miller, Harrison (2010)
10	T April 2	Social institutions
	Th April 4	Visit: Village of Arts and Humanities Reading:TBA
11	T April 9	Disaster relief and rebuilding
	Th April 11	Reading: Cameron and Stohr; TBA PIFA: On site
12	T April 16	Student research presentations
	Th April 18	Student research presentations
13	T April 23	Student research presentations
	Th April 25	Student research presentations
14	T April 30	Wrap up: discussion of hands-on projects

Research Paper Due: May 9

Bibliography

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