ARCH 576, Section UDT: Urban Design Theory

Fall Semester 2012, Wednesdays: 9:00 am to 11:50 am

Instructor: Professor Kevin Hinders

This seminar’s objectives are to assist students to gain a clearer understanding of the period referred to as Modern Architecture and subsequent developments in the areas of Design Theory and the Built Environment. The course focuses on the role of architecture in the creation of the urban environment.

“Seminar: A group of supervised students doing research or advanced study.” Webster’s New World Dictionary

“A long standing tradition within architectural education, the graduate seminar is a forum for highly motivated students and the instructor to delve deeper into the major ideas, principles and issues confronting architecture and urban design today.” Max Underwood, Professor, Arizona State University

This seminar is a unique opportunity to learn from one another and to utilize one another’s insights to enhance our own understanding of the writings, theories and policies that create the urban environment. Scrutiny and discussion are imperative in one’s attempt to understand and build upon these writings.

This enlightenment will be achieved through the reading and critical discussion of the texts, including:

*Collage City* - Colin Rowe and Fred Koetter

Other essays will be chosen by seminar participants and may include:

*Rome Interrotta* - Rowe, et. al.

“Urban Design Tactics” (from *Roma Interrotta*) - Steve Peterson

“Space /Anti space” (from *Harvard Architecture Review* V. 1) - Steve Peterson

“Excursus Americanus” (from *Modulus OR The French Hotel*) - Michael Dennis

“The Way is the Goal” (from *Daedalus*) - Gert Mattinklott

*The Highway and the City* - Lewis Mumford

“The American Grid” (from *Thresholds*) - Steve Hurtt

*Home from Nowhere* - James Howard Kunstler

*Cities, Towns and Palaces* - Leon Krier

*Piranesi’s Rome and the New Jerusalem* - Alex Kreiger

*Urban Comparisons* - Melvin Branch

Projects: A series of projects and analysis will be undertaken in order to gain insights into the role of texture, figure etc. in the built, urban environment. Each student will be responsible for documenting, analyzing and presenting a selected city. Students will create and analyze an existing matrix of American Cities for a collective urban comparison. This assignment will be discussed in class.