ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS: PLACE AND CULTURE

This is the final course in the required Design Arts core sequence and builds on the courses in Spatial Composition and Human Contexts of Design.

The course investigates the idea that buildings are not isolated objects, but are anchored in and shaped by their physical and cultural contexts. The course examines the emergence of settlements and cities, contemporary issues in urban design, buildings in the landscape and in the context of cities, and lays out culturally- and place-based principles for architectural design.

There is a historical component to the course: we will contrast the processes and forces that led to the morphology of traditional settlement and cities, and how these processes were drastically changed by the industrial revolution and modernism. We will look closely at the typical environment of the early 21st century, and the problems that have become obvious about our way of building and dwelling. Underlying all this will be questions of how we can learn from the past in shaping sustainable settlement patterns for the future.

Course Requirements
Attendance at lectures, participation in discussion sections, three short projects presented in section, required readings, midterm exam, and final exam. For the exams, students will be responsible for understanding the readings and lectures up to that point.

Instructors
Peter Keyes, Brook Muller

GTFs
Cem Kayatekin, Kelsey McLaughlin, James Miller

Lectures: 12:00-1:30, Tuesday and Thursday, Lawrence 177

Sections:
Arch 430: One-hour discussion session per week led by GTFs.
Arch 530: One 1.5 hour seminar each week led by instructor

Grading
25% participation in section
20% quality of projects/projects
25% midterm examination
30% final examination

Fine print
The GTFs will work under the direct supervision of the instructor, who will have ultimate responsibility for determining and entering grades. All grading will be done according to clear criteria that are used by the course instructor and the GTF assisting in the course. The course instructor will regularly monitor the grading activities of the GTF with respect to accuracy and fairness. All graduate students will have their work evaluated by the faculty member teaching the course, except for the midterm exam, which will be graded by the GTFs. Any graduate student who objects to this should see an instructor to make alternative arrangements.

Midterm exam
A short-answer exam which will be graded by GTFs.

Final exam
Arch 430: in-class, short answer, Friday June 13, 8:00 a.m.
Arch 530: Take-home essay exam, due Friday, June 13, 8:00 am. Graded by instructors,

Readings will be provided through Blackboard.