Course Objectives. This course is about the buildings and landscapes of our built environment: why we build them, how they enhance our lives, how they don’t, and how we can make them better. The goal of this course is for students to develop an understanding of how human interactions with the built environment play a critical role in design psychology and to look at design through the eyes of diverse users. The course content will focus on environment-behavior concepts but also on critical analysis and application of these concepts by designers. Examination of case-studies of functional building types will be used as a means to understand psychological, social, cultural and functional expectations that people have for the places that they inhabit. A portion of the course will help students understand and use research tools to understand how people use places and to implement this information in their design proposals.

Prerequisites. Undergraduate majors must have completed ARCH 181 and 182 design studios. Graduate Students must have completed 681 Studio or equivalent.

Course Assignments. The main project will be a case study analysis of a built-place of your choice - a building, park, street, or other element of our environment. In teams of two, you will conduct a detailed analysis of the setting and its occupants and based on this research, recommend improvements to the setting in form of design patterns. Every section meeting has an in-class exercise or project related discussion. These are intended as vehicles to deepen understandings of the principles and methods presented in lectures and readings. For section meetings 2-5, 7 & 8, bring a “reading response” as your entrance ticket. The midterm and final will cover lectures and readings. These exams cannot be taken “late” except by pre-authorization from instructor or documented extenuating circumstance. Please note that all work for this course must be completed during this quarter. It is University policy that an Incomplete is an instructor-initiated grade, given under special circumstances and only by prior arrangement with the instructor.