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, looking at design through the eyes of diverse users. The course content focuses on environment-behavior concepts and 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 introduce students to research tools to analyze how people use places and to implement this information in their design proposals.

Prerequisites. Undergraduate majors must have completed ARCH 283, 284 and 383 design studios. Graduate Students must have completed ARCH 680 and 681 studios or their equivalent.

Course Assignments. The main project is a case study analysis of a built-place of choice - a building, park, street, or other element of our environment. In teams of two, students conduct detailed analyses of the settings and their occupants and based on this research, recommend improvements in the form of design patterns. Section meetings have in-class exercises or project related discussions. 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, students write reading responses. The midterm and final exams cover both lectures and readings.