

Porous Public Space: Urban Nature for Climate Adaptation

Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2016 [Larch 501/Arch504]

Instructors: Nancy Rottle (LA), Jim Nicholls (ARCH)

Teaching Assistant: Bill Estes (LA)

With Master Teacher Louise Grassov, Schulze + Grassov



"Hydraulic structure will be the backbone of urban space development in Copenhagen for the next 20 years."
– Lykke Leonardsen, Head of Climate Unit, Municipality of Copenhagen

"What kind of city do you want? How will your city use the new climate imperatives to create urbanism, public space and architecture?" – Peter Honneke, Landscape Architect COBE

"Mono and multi is about diversity and creating a wide range of activities for different groups in one place." – Danish Architecture Center, "Let's Play" Exhibit

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Copenhagen is currently focusing on three primary initiatives: **urban renewal** for select identified neighborhoods; **climate adaptation interventions** to alleviate flooding, heat island, and biodiversity impacts; and incorporation of **urban nature** – with **integration of these three initiatives as an overarching goal**.

This term we will be working with these objectives in mind, on a Copenhagen district and site surrounding an existing and expanding transit hub for the “S” commuter train, new Metro, major bus stop, and bicycle superhighway. The intersection also serves as a cultural, community gathering, and shopping center for the surrounding population, comprised of a changing mix of immigrants, gypsies, students, and ethnic Danes. We will apply site program ideas from our travels, including studies of transit centers, “cloudburst” (stormwater) management approaches, cultural facilities, streets and bicycle infrastructure, markets, parks and gardens. Guided by principles developed by Gehl Architects, and their offspring of Schulze + Grassov, we will devise approaches to cultivate and enrich public life -- both moving through, and staying in, the public realm of streets, plazas, markets and leftover spaces of this site. Additionally, we will work at district, site and detail scales to use urban design to address **climate change impacts**, through:

- addressing social and cultural needs and amenities to **cultivate social resilience**
- exploring opportunities to insert urban nature for **biodiversity resilience and human health; and**
- artfully integrating water into the cityscape for **hydraulic function and human delight**.

During the term, our Master Studio will benefit from the involvement of Louise Grassov, formerly with Gehl Architects and now with her own firm, Schulze + Grassov. Throughout the quarter, we'll build on the Copenhagen study tour by referencing examples from our travels and employing and expanding on Gehl's and Shulze + Grassov's public life / public space principles.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- to practice site and district analysis methods
- to explore strategies for creating a democratic public realm that is ecological, resilient, regenerative, playful and just;
- to explore, implement and expand on Gehl Architects' urban design concepts and methods to promote a lively urban realm;
- to develop and apply ecological infrastructural planning and design to foster vibrant and green urbanism, addressing the challenge of climate change;
- to practice the creative act of developing and transforming program ideas into integrated, responsive designed form;
- to apply evaluation metrics to anticipate actual social, environmental and/or economic performance of design interventions;
- to develop clear and compelling graphic and verbal communication skills;
- to practice working effectively in interdisciplinary teams;
- to practice working at all scales, using both large and small scales simultaneously to each inform the other.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the culmination of the studio, students will:

- be facile with implementing recognized public space planning principles and design criteria
- be aware of climate change impacts to urban populations, and a range of alternatives for addressing such impacts
- have practiced applying artful urban nature and water management strategies to the urban realm
- have advanced personal planning, design and design communication skills
- have increased insight and skill for working in teams

STUDIO PROCESS and EXPECTATIONS

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 to 5:20 for *group presentations, discussions, field trips, working time and team desk critiques*. Occasionally we'll go beyond these times for special events and work times. This term you will primarily work in groups on district inventory and analysis, and on conceptual district and schematic site planning/design level endeavors. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled class time, and to participate as a full member in your teamwork. When Louise Grassov is scheduled to be in town, we expect you to be in studio at all times, and plan on slightly longer days and scheduled sessions outside of class time to best make use of her limited time with us (recognizing conflicting work and school commitments). This will likely require meeting on Tuesdays and Thursday for group and individual desk crits.

You are highly encouraged to continue your sketchbook from Copenhagen (or start a new one) that documents your research and design explorations. Consider including your research and design process, notes from readings, class discussions and community meetings, solutions seen, heard, and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

The required book for the term is Jan Gehl's most recent, *Cities for People*, which has been ordered from the UW Bookstore. Optional texts have also been ordered: *Ecological Design* (Rottle and Yocom); *Urban Design* (Waterman and Wall); *Urban Composition* (Childs); and *Biophilic Cities* (Beatley). We have developed an extensive list of Resources, many of which will be on Reserve in the CBE Library and on-line (see attached). Over the term we'll compile a studio library to support your work, and you are encouraged to share new resources with each other as you discover them.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://courses.washington.edu/gehlstud/>

COURSE SHARE SPACE:

The share space for our course is on Google Drive. The course folder is **2016 Larch 501**. Google Drive is very user friendly. For anyone interested in becoming more familiar with how Google Drive works feel free to avail yourselves of the numerous tutorials online or approach Bill with specific questions. Here's a good place to start: <https://support.google.com/drive/?hl=en#topic=14940>.

You will need to have your own Google Drive account in order to access the class files. UW administers its mail and file sharing through Google so you can access a Drive account that way, or if you already have a Gmail account we can share the files with you there. The 2016 Larch 501 folder was shared with everyone's

preferred email addresses from the study tour, but if you prefer another Gmail address simply request an invitation.

The 2016 Larch 501 folder will be shared with all students, with some files editable and others not. Since everything that you share could potentially be edited/removed/otherwise changed by other members of the group, **do not store your original files on the class Drive**. Please share copies (exact duplicates) of your work and store the original files elsewhere for safekeeping. We will happily advise on storage systems if anyone would like help safely and conveniently storing their files. This is very important to note: **once you have added the class Drive folder to your personal Google Drive everything you do in that folder affects the rest of the class** (editing and removing files, etc.).

For photos and imagery, Bill has forwarded instructions for uploading to the class **Flickr** page. Each individual should create an album using their last name and upload their photos as soon as possible. Scans of your sketchbooks are helpful too. We will use these photos for publications and presentations.

STUDIO EVALUATION (C/NC)

Evaluation will be both from guest reviewers and faculty throughout the quarter, with written comments provided at the end of the term. We may also elect to conduct peer evaluations for group work.

Required at the end of term:

- **Digital upload of your project files and book pages, including scans of your process work**
- **Your final printed posters**
- **Printouts of your posters in reduced format (e.g. 11 x 17 or 8.5 x 11)**
- **Final versions of book pages to be published (precedents, analysis, etc.)**
- **Final posters and process work uploaded to the Landscape Architecture archives**

RESOURCES: Available on the Google Drive [Resources/Presentations Folder]:

Gehl

- How to Study Public Life/ Quality Criteria
- Human Senses and Scale

Resources in Danish

- Norrebro Vision and planning documents and Metro Plan
- Metro Plaza plans
-

City of Copenhagen

- Copenhagen Integrated Urban Renewal Presentation
- Uptown Norrebro Student Housing (<http://www.uptown2200.dk/>)
- Urban Renewal for adjacent and new district : <http://www.kk.dk/fuglekvarteret>

Schulze + Grassov

- Parameters for Public Space in Copenhagen – Presentation

SLA

- Urban Nature and Climate Adaptation <http://www.sla.dk/en/about-us/publications/climateadaptationcitynature/> + hard copy
- SLA Presentation

Other:

- COBE Norrebro Project Booklet
- COBE Plans for the corridor and plaza

Hard copies of the following will be available in the studio for your use during the quarter (ALL MATERIALS ARE TO BE RETURNED):

- *Parameters for Public Spaces in Copenhagen*. Schulze + Grassov, January 2015
- *Focus on Cycling: Copenhagen Guidelines for the Design of Road Projects*. City of Copenhagen, December 2013.
- *Good, Better, Best. The City of Copenhagen's Bicycle Strategy 2011 – 2015*. City of Copenhagen.
- *Climate Change Adaptation and Investment Statement, Part 1*. October 2015.
http://kk.sites.itera.dk/apps/kk_pub2/pdf/1499_bUxCjgovgE.pdf
- *Climate Change Adaptation and Investment Statement, Part 2*, October 2015. Hard copy in studio, pdf at: http://kk.sites.itera.dk/apps/kk_pub2/pdf/1500_lxcZZYkCfR.pdf
- Rottle and Alberti, Eds. "Climate Change and Place," *Places Journal*. 2007.

CAD & GIS files [Resources/Base Files]:

- In the file you will find the digital versions of the workshop bases used in Copenhagen as well as a Norrebro Site Base (CAD file) for your use. These are in metric scale and contain layers for buildings, pavement edges, topo, and other layers.
- Additional GIS layers can be found at: <http://kbhkort.kk.dk/spatialmap?>

Additionally, see separate list of books, articles and websites.