topics: introduction to landscape architecture
syllabus

usp 510_3 credits_urban220_fall2007_monday_6.40-9.20pm

instructors:  carolina aragón [caragon@pdx.edu]
nathan hilmer [nhilmer@walkermacy.com]

[please feel free to contact the instructor through e-mail to arrange office hours.]

course description: this course will give some insight into the design approach used by landscape architects. It will explore the theories that influence our work and the manner in which these theories are transformed into physical environments. The course will be divided into two phases. The first phase will offer a theoretical and historical understanding of the landscape architecture profession; the second will introduce students to the design process through the development of a landscape architecture design project.

course objectives:
- to understand the cultural contributions of landscape architecture.
- to gain general knowledge of the elements that influence the practice of landscape architecture.
- to develop critical thinking about contemporary issues related to landscape architecture.
- to achieve clarity in the expression of ideas: orally, in writing, and through graphic representation.

grading:

- writing assignments [5]: 25%
- case study presentation: 20%
- site analysis assignment: 10%
- conceptual/schematic design: 30%
- participation/attendance: 15%

[late work will be automatically marked down by 10 points each day, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructors. Missing more than one class will affect the participation/attendance grade.]

special needs: every effort will be made to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Please notify the instructors during the first week of class so that any necessary accommodations can be arranged.

reading assignment: students are required to read all the texts indicated in the bibliography and any additional materials added by the instructors. Students are expected to speak about the assigned readings and contribute to class discussions.
**writing assignment:** for classes 2 through 6, students will prepare a brief one to two page response to the assigned texts. This response should include the following:

_a._ a brief summary of the author’s intention or main idea nested within an original thesis.

_b._ your reaction to the ideas presented in the readings and any resulting questions that will help stimulate in-class discussion. Please refrain from using extensive quotations from the text or posing questions such as, “X asserts such and such, do you agree with that?” Make a concise and cogent argument.

[writing assignments are to be e-mailed to both instructors by noon on the Sunday preceding the class; please bring an additional copy to class for your use.]

**class discussion:** active participation is essential to foster stimulating exchange of ideas and is expected of all students.

**case study assignment:** each student is expected to complete a case study assignment. Each class from week 2 through week 8, students will present a case study that will supplement the assigned readings and the in-class lecture.

The students presenting case studies for each class should become ‘experts’ on the topic of study. They will present a brief summary of their case study and will prepare questions. Their independent investigation should be tied in to the class theme and their questions and expertise will stimulate and guide the discussion.

Students will self-select a case study from a list provided on the first day of class. Visual material is essential for the presentation of the case studies. Power Point presentations are highly recommended (any other format should allow the images to be visible to all the class.)

[re: case study presentations. Power Point or other digital media should be e-mailed to the instructors by noon on Monday prior to the presentation.]
texts:

(the reader and book contain all the required readings shown in the bibliography)

course reader: Introduction to Landscape Architecture – USP 510 available @ Clean Copy


bibliography:

class #2: What is Landscape?


class #3: FLO: the first landscape architect


class #4: Ecology & Design: nature [and/versus/is] culture


Class#5: The Working Landscape


class#6: Sense of Place

Jackson, John B. ” A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time,” in *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Time* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), p.150-163


Class#7: Conceptual Design


Class#8: Turning Design into Reality


Class#9: Brownfields: the parks of the 21st century?


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>1</em></th>
<th>you are here: selected landscape architecture projects in pdx</th>
<th>9.24.07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>class introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>2</em></td>
<td>what is landscape?</td>
<td>10.1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>reading/writing assignment_case study presentation_class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>guest speaker: Caitlin Pope-Daum</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>3</em></td>
<td>f.l.o: the first landscape architect</td>
<td>10.8.07</td>
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<td>reading/writing assignment_case study presentation_class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>4</em></td>
<td>ecology &amp; design: nature [and/versus/is] culture</td>
<td>10.15.07</td>
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<td>reading/writing assignment_case study presentation_class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>5</em></td>
<td>the working landscape</td>
<td>10.22.07</td>
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<td></td>
<td>reading/writing assignment_case study presentation_class discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>6</em></td>
<td>sense of place</td>
<td>10.29.07</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>reading/writing assignment_case study presentation_class discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>guest speaker: Ken Pirie</td>
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<td><em>7</em></td>
<td>the big idea: the role of conceptual design</td>
<td>11.5.07</td>
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<td></td>
<td>site analysis assignment_class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>8</em></td>
<td>translation &amp; representation: turning design into reality</td>
<td>11.12.07</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conceptual design assignment_class discussion</td>
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<td>guest speaker: Ben Vaughn. How to build a roof garden.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>9</em></td>
<td>brownfields: the parks of the 21st century?</td>
<td>11.19.07</td>
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<td>schematic design assignment</td>
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<td>_10</td>
<td>variations on a site: student projects presentation</td>
<td>11.26.07</td>
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<td>individual presentation of design projects</td>
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