

Global Culture and Diversity – Distributional Electives

Description

Exploring relationships between diverse cultures, geographies, communities, social conditions, and the built environment provides a rich source of inspiration for architects and designers. As such, explorations in global culture and diversity are essential for developing relevant design skills and sensibilities. To ensure that students in the M.Arch-1 program gain exposure to conditions of the built environment in diverse communities, the M.Arch-1 degree requires students to earn a minimum of four (4) credit units in courses designated as *Global Culture & Diversity* distributional electives. This category of offerings is broad, encompassing appropriate design studios, lecture courses, and seminars. Course matter may include non-Western contexts, indigenous, or under-represented communities, challenged socio-economic frameworks, marginalized populations, divergent histories of architecture, special cultural conditions of a variety of vernacular, local, and regional settings. Correspondingly, student coursework may take a variety of forms for example, research papers on historic or contemporary architecture in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania or other settings; or studio projects that engage in indigenous cultures, socially and economically challenged regions, historical settlement and contemporary urbanization patterns, political, social, ecological, technological and spatial patterns in architecture, forms and typologies, vernacular construction methods, and so on, within specific non-Western geographic contexts (commonly understood as areas other than Europe, North and South America, Australia; however, inclusive of under-represented regions of those continents. For example, the tropics, pre-Colombian areas of Peru, etc. are included in this distributional area). Common among these elective offerings is the expectation that students will not only absorb new knowledge about the needs, values, and social patterns of other cultures, but also apply their own analytical argumentation and design skills to resolving problems of architecture and urbanism in these contexts.

Archive of Past Approved Courses

Note: For a course to count towards a requirement, it must be taken in the year that it was listed as valid.

Fall 2024

3522 Arctic Design	Bert De Jonghe
4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story	Mohsen Mostafavi
4487 Plants of Ritual: Creating a Spiritual Connection to the Designed Landscape	Francesca Benedetto
4518 Expanding the Canon: Architecture and Urbanism	Rahul Mehrotra
4519 Contested Spaces: Architecture and Power	Ana Leon Crespo
5213 Equitable Development and Housing Policy in Urban Settings (at HKS)	James Carras
5347 Urbanization and Development	Diane Davis
5386 Urban Ethnographies	Michael Herzfeld
5513 Native Nations and Contemporary Land Use	Eric Henson
7453 Origins and Contemporary Practices of Landscape Architecture in Asia: Korean Perspectives and More	Jung Yoon Kim
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China	Bing Wang

Spring 2024

4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan	Seng Kuan
4458 Architecture: Histories of the Present	Mohsen Mostafavi
4486 Displaced Becomings --The Many Faces of Modern Architecture in Sinophone Asia	Chuntei Tseng
5213 Equitable Development and Housing Policy in Urban Settings (at HKS)	James Carras
5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line	Stephen Gray
5409 Climate Justice	Abby Spinak
5427 Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building II (at HKS)	Eric Henson

Fall 2023

3513 Community Engagement Workshop: Making Artifacts that Educate and Empower	Daniel D'Oca
4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story	Mohsen Mostafavi

4487 Plants of Ritual: Creating a Spiritual Connection to the Designed Landscape
4509 Histories of Architecture Against
5326 Housing and Urbanization in the United States
5347 Urbanization and Development
5386 Urban Ethnographies
5451 Race and Real Estate [Module 2]
5495 Urban Economics and Market Analysis
7453 Origins and Contemporary Practices of Asian Landscape Architecture:
Korean Perspectives and More
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

Francesca Benedetto
Ana Maria Leon Crespo
Jennifer Molinski, James Stockard
Nora Libertun
Michael Herzfeld
Dana McKinney White
Rachel Meltzer, Richard Barkham
Jung Yoon Kim

Bing Wang

Spring 2023

3398 Urban Design & Planning for Climate Transformation, Intense Migration,
& Rapid Urban Growth
4344 Chinese Modern Architecture and Urbanism
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan
4458 Architecture: Histories of the Present
4506: Yeah, they were all Yellow: Asian Feminist Architectural Possibilities
5213 Equitable Development and Housing Policy in Urban Settings
5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line
5427 Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building II (at HKS)
5439 Land Loss, Reclamation, and Stewardship in Contemporary Native America

5442 New Towns and Affordable Housing Development in Africa
5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance,
and Management

Luis Felipe Vera Benitez

Peter Rowe
Seng Kuan
Mohsen Mostafavi
Ruo Jia
James Carras
Stephen Gray
Eric Henson
Daniel D'Oca, Eric Henson, Philip
Deloria
Richard Peiser
Edward Marchant

Fall 2022

4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture
4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story
4455 Cotton Kingdom, Now
4486: Displaced Becomings --The Many Faces of Modern Architecture in Sinophone Asia
4487: Plants of Ritual: Creating a Spiritual Connection to the Designed Landscape
4495: Highways, Deforestation, and State-driven Colonization in Amazonia
5326 Housing and Urbanization in the US
5347 Urbanization and Development
5386 Urban Ethnographies
5495 Urban Economics for Planners and Policymakers
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

Stanislas Fung
Mohsen Mostafavi
Sara Zewde
David C. Tseng
Francesca Benedetto
Ana Duran Calisto
James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky
Diane Davis
Michael Herzfeld
Rachel Meltzer
Bing Wang

Spring 2022

4344 Chinese Modern Architecture and Urbanism
4458 Architecture: Histories of the Present
4479 Power & Place: Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
4483 Late-modern Japan and the Wild Samurai Generation
4484 Otherness and Canon: Episodes of a Dialogic Reading of the History of Architecture
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line
5383 Developing for Social Impact
5397 Cities and the Urban Informal Economy

5424 Architectures of the New Silk Road- Spaces of Transnational
Infrastructure-led Urbanization
5427 Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building II (at HKS)

Peter Rowe
Mohsen Mostafavi
George Thomas, Susan Snyder
Seng Kuan
Jorge Liernur, Yazmin Crespo
Alexander von Hoffman
Stephen Gray
Matthew Kiefer
Rahul Mehrotra, Martha Chen,
Bish Sanyal
Marc Angelil

Eric Henson

5439 Land Loss, Reclamation, and Stewardship in Contemporary Native America

5442 New Towns and Affordable Housing Development in Africa

5444 Typologies of Liberation

5486 The Gentrification Debates: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhood Change

5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance,
and Management

Daniel D'Oca, Eric Henson, Philip
Deloria

Richard Peiser

Oana Stanescu, Bryan Lee

Toni Griffin

Edward Marchant

Fall 2021

3346 Urban Form Transition as Condition

3358 An Unsentimental Look at Architecture and Social Craft

3398 Migration in Latin-American: Imagining Flux, Rapid Response and Reversibility

3486 Original Misunderstandings: Latin American Architecture and Some Genealogies

4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan

4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture

4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story

4464 Slavery, the slave trade and the built environment

5213 Equitable Development and Housing Policy in Urban Settings

5326 Housing and Urbanization in the US

5386 Urban Ethnographies

5429 Reimagining social infrastructure and collective futures

5495 Urban Economics for Planners and Policymakers

9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

Eve Blau

John Peterson

Luis Felipe Vera Benitez

Florencia Rodriguez

Seng Kuan

Stanislas Fung

Mohsen Mostafavi

Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto

James Carras

James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky

Michael Herzfeld

Malkit Shoshan

Rachel Meltzer

Bing Wang

Spring 2021

4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China

4458 Architecture: Histories of the Present

4478 Other(ed) Architecture: Coloniality, Subject, and Space

4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment

5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities

5347 Urbanization and Development

5367 U.S. Housing Markets, Problems, and Policies

5374 Community Development: History, Theory, and Imaginative Practice

5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line

5383 Developing for Social Impact

5397 Cities and the Urban Informal Economy

5419 Hidden Figures: The City, Architecture and the Construction of Race and Gender

5424 Architectures of the New Silk Road

5427 Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building II (at HKS)

5486 The Gentrification Debates: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhood Change

5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance,
and Management

Peter Rowe

Mohsen Mostafavi

Somayeh Chitchian

George Thomas, Susan Snyder

Alexander von Hoffman

Diane Davis

Chris Herbert

Lily Song

Stephen Gray

Matthew Kiefer

Rahul Mehrotra, Martha Chen,

Bish Sanyal

Hansy Better

Marc Angelil

Eric Henson

Toni Griffin

Edward Marchant

Fall 2020

3358 An Unsentimental Look at Architecture and Social Craft

4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture

4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story

4455 Cotton Kingdom, Now

5326 Housing and Urbanization in the US

5386 Urban Ethnographies

5389 New Spaces of Justice

5495 Market Analysis and Urban Economics

John Peterson

Stanislas Fung

Mohsen Mostafavi

Sara Zewde

James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky

Michael Herzfeld

Oana Stanescu

Jaclene Begley

Spring 2020

3346 Urban Form Transition as Condition
3607 Architecture as an Urban Issue: Challenges & Inventions in the Practice in Tokyo
4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan
4393 Cultural Fever: Postmodern Effects in Sino-American Architecture
4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
5211 Cities by Design II: Projects, Processes, and Outcomes
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5366 Global Perspectives on Shelter Insecurity and Displacement
5374 Community Development: History, Theory, and Imaginative Practice
5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line
5383 Developing for Social Impact
5390 Public Space as a Catalyst for Change in Informal Settlements: The Case of Argentina
5392 Queer Spaces
5486 The Gentrification Debates: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhood Change
5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance,
and Management
6601 Tectonic Tradition in Japan

Eve Blau
Kayoko Ota
Peter Rowe
Seng Kuan
Michael Hays, Ruo Jia
George Thomas, Susan Snyder
Stephen Gray
Alexander von Hoffman
Michael Hooper
Lily Song
Stephen Gray
Matthew Kiefer
Belinda Tato
Ann Forsyth
Toni Griffin
Edward Marchant

Mitsuhiro Kanada

Fall 2019

3358 An Unsentimental Look at Architecture and Social Craft
4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture
5213 Policy Making in Urban Settings
5326 Housing and Urbanization in the US
5495 Market Analysis and Urban Economics
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

John Peterson
Stanislas Fung
James Carras
James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky
Renee Tapp
Bing Wang

Spring 2019

1323 Tokyo Study Abroad Studio New Topologies of Our Living Environment
3346 Urban Form Transition as Condition
3607 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar Thinning Metropolis Strategies and Tools
for the New Urban Condition
4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan
4476 Architecture's Bodies Agency and Biopolitics
4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
5201 Urban Politics and Planning (at HKS)
5211 Cities by Design II Projects, Processes, and Outcomes
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5367 U.S. Housing Markets, Problems, and Policies
5374 Community Development History, Theory, and Imaginative Practice
5381 Urban Design and the Color-Line
5432 International Humanitarian Response (at HSPH)
5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance,
and Management
5495 Market Analysis and Urban Economics

Sosuke Fujimoto
Eve Blau
Kayoko Ota

Peter Rowe
Seng Kuan
Lisa Haber-Thomson
George Thomas, Susan Snyder
Quinton Mayne
Stephen Gray
Alexander von Hoffman
Chris Herbert
Lily Song
Stephen Gray
Stephanie Kayden
Edward Marchant

Raymond Torto, Jing Ren

Fall 2018

1302 Dwelling / Garden / Being, Suzhou
1308 Architecture as a Tool to Improve Lives Development of a Day Care Centre for
Rohingya Children
1403 Alternative Futures for Al-'Ula, Saudi Arabia
1501 The New Selma

Zhang Ke
Anna Heringer

Stephen Ervin, Craig Douglas
Daniel D'Oca

1503 Gendering Urban Development Making room for women in urban planning and design in Argentina
1602 The Agency of Mezcal in the Oaxaca Valley of Mexico
3358 An Unsentimental Look at Architecture and Social Craft
3369 Spaces of Solidarity
4387 Topology and Imagination Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture
4387 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan
5210 Cities by Design I
5213 Policy Making in Urban Settings (at HKS)
5326 Housing and Urbanization in the United States
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

Chelina Odbert, Ignacio Cardona

Elisa Silva
John Peterson
Malkit Shoshan
Stanislas Fung
Seng Kuan
Rahul Mehrotra et al
James Carras
James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky
Bing Wang

Spring 2018

1315 After the Storm Restructuring an Island Ecosystem
1316 ROOT Rediscovery of Jingdezhen Contemporary
1603 Manila Future Habitations

Jeanne Gang, Claire Cahan
Pei Zhu
Rok Oman, David Rubin, Spela Videcnik

1605 Rapid Urbanism

Reinier de Graaf, Ricardo Solar Lezama

3346 Urban Form Transition as Condition
3369 Spaces of Solidarity
4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China
4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
5201 Urban Politics and Planning (at HKS)
5211 Cities by Design II Projects, Processes, and Outcomes
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5347 Urbanization and International Development
5365 Towns and Settlements in Metropolitan Regions
5367 U. S. Housing Markets, Problems, and Policies
5374 Community Development Past, Present, and Future
5432 International Humanitarian Response (at HSPH)
5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance, and Management
5495 Market Analysis and Urban Economics
6311 Innovative Construction in Japan

Eve Blau
Malkit Shoshan
Peter Rowe
George Thomas, Susan Snyder
Quinton Mayne
Stephen Gray
Alexander von Hoffman
Sai Balakrishnan
Peter Rowe
Chris Herbert
Lily Song
Stephanie Kayden, Daniel Maxwell
Edward Marchant
Raymond Torto
Mark Mulligan

Fall 2017

3358 An Unsentimental Look at Architecture and Social Craft
4329 Urbanization in the East Asian Region
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan
5210 Cities by Design I
5213 Policy Making in Urban Settings (at HKS)
5326 Housing and Urbanization in the United States
5486 There Goes the Neighborhood Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhoods...
5601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar Tokyo on a Crossroads
6601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar on Structure and Material in Japan
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

John Peterson
Peter Rowe
Seng Kuan
Rahul Mehrotra et al
James Carras
James Stockard, Jennifer Molinsky
Toni Griffin
Kayako Ota
Mitsuhiro Kanada
Bing Wang

Spring 2017

1314 Material that Connects A Campus Center in Chicago
1322 Building Industries in African Water Cities
1409 Ulsan Remade Manufacturing the Modern Industrial Landscape
1410 In the Middle of the Streams Beyond Landscape Architecture Design & Flow
1504 Type, City, Ecology Hydro-types and Knowledge Environments for a New Township in India

Jeanne Gang
Kunle Adeyemi
Niall Kirkwood
Catherine Mosbach
Christopher Lee

1506 Sao Paulo the Rescaling of Rail Infrastructure and New Models of Domestic Life
1602 Kuala Lumpur / Discovering Traces

3357 Experiments in Public Freedom
4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
5201 Urban Politics and Planning (at HKS)
5211 Cities by Design II
5290 The Space of Conflict
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5347 International Urbanization and Development
5362 Design for the Just City
5365 Towns and Settlements in Metropolitan Regions
5366 Global Perspective on Shelter Insecurity and Displacement
5432 International Humanitarian Response (at HSPH)
5490 Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing Development, Finance, Management
9138 SURPLUS HOUSING Models of Collective Living in South America

Felipe Correa
Spela Videcnik, Rok Oman, David Rubin
Sergio Lopez-Pinero
G. Thomas, S. Snyder
Mayne
Stephen Gray
Potvin
Alexander von Hoffman
Sai Balakrishnan
Toni Griffin
Peter Rowe
Michael Hooper
Jerold Kayden
Edward Marchant
Felipe Correa

Fall 2016

1305 Fukuoka Project Strategies for Urban Extroverts
1309 The Archipelago in the Archipelago. Medellin A Tropical City
1310 Hutong Metabolism, Beijing
1312 Tokyo Study Abroad Studio Transforming Omishima into a Beautiful Japanese Garden
1501 Affirmatively Further Fair Housing After Ferguson
1601 INTERFACE Constructing the Edge for Malaysia Vision Valley
4329 Urbanization in the East Asian Region
4329 Architecture, Urbanism, and National Identity in Muslim Geographies
5210 Cities by Design I
5601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar Tokyo on a Crossroads
5363 Prosperity, Civic Values and Diversity in a Gentrifying City The Case of Central Square
6601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar on Structure and Material in Japan
9127 Real Estate and City Making in China

Toshiko Mori
Camilo Restrepo Ochoa
Zhang Ke
Toyo Ito

Daniel D'Oca
S. Gray and Z. Hong
Peter Rowe
Sibel Bozdogan
Peter Rowe
Kayoko Ota
Geeta Pradhan

Mitsuhiro Kanada
Bing Wang

Spring 2016

1314 Territorio Guarani III
1321 Redesigning the Actor Network in Rural Areas around Tokyo
1406 Seoul Remade Design of the 'Kool' and the Everyday
1504 Housing in Merida Yucatan the urban and the territorial
1505 "Regular City" in Chongqing Searching for Domesticated Superstructures
1507 Extreme Urbanism IV Looking at Hyper Density - Dongri, Mumbai
1508 The Factory and the City Rethinking the industrial spaces of the developmental city
1602 Jakarta Models of Collective Space for the Extended Metropolis
3351 Landscape as Urbanism in Latin America
3602 Political Landscapes (Rotterdam Study Abroad Seminar)
4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China
4367 Selected Topics in Chinese Architecture and Urbanism
4479 Power & Place Culture and Conflict in the Built Environment
5211 Cities by Design II
5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
5347 International Urbanization and Development
5362 Design for the Just City
5507 Urban Inequality after Civil Rights (at FAS)
6311 Innovative Construction in Japan

Jorge Silveti
Kaijima, Tsukamoto
Niall Kirkwood
Diane Davis, Jose Castillo
Joan Busquets
Rahul Mehrotra
Christopher Lee

Felipe Correa
Luis Rodrigo Callejas Mujica
Niklas Maak
Peter Rowe
Xiangning Li
G. Thomas, S. Snyder
Stephen Gray
Alexander von Hoffman
Sai Balakrishnan
Toni Griffin
Elizabeth Hinton
Mark Mulligan

5362 Design for the Just City
9129 Living in the Kinetic City Mapping Housing in a Landscape of Flux, Mumbai
9138 SURPLUS HOUSING Models of Collective Living in South America

Toni Griffin
Rahul Mehrotra
Felipe Correa

(Prior to 2016, this Distributional Elective was known as “Non-Western.” The description of that elective type is included below)

Exploring relationships between geography, culture, and the built environment provides a seemingly inexhaustible source of inspiration for architects and designers – certainly this is true for the GSD’s diverse international population of students, faculty, and visitors. Today, as architects increasingly find work in geographic regions and cultural contexts very different from those in which they grew up, such explorations are essential for developing relevant design skills and sensibilities. To ensure that students in the M.Arch-1 program gain some depth of exposure to conditions of the built environment outside of what we conventionally call the West (principally Europe, North and South America, Australia), the M.Arch-1 degree requires students to earn a minimum of four (4) credit units in courses designated as Non-Western Architecture distributional electives. This category of offerings is diverse, encompassing appropriate design studios (i.e., options studios focused on non-Western contexts and issues), lecture courses, and research seminars. Correspondingly, student coursework may take a variety of forms – research papers on historic or contemporary architecture in Asia, Africa, Oceania or other settings, for example; or studio projects that engage historical settlement and contemporary urbanization patterns, political, social and spatial patterns in architecture, forms and typologies, indigenous construction methods, and so on within specific non-Western geographic contexts. Common among these elective offerings is the expectation that students will not only absorb new knowledge about the needs, values, and social patterns of other cultures but also apply their own analytical argumentation and design skills to resolving problems in architecture and urbanism in these contexts.

Fall 2015

1307 Imprecise Tropics
1501 When the Future Looked Bright We Didn't Wear Shades
1502 The MLK Way Building on Black America's Main Street
4329 Urbanization in the East Asia Region
4405 Staging the City Urban Form and Public Life in Istanbul
5210 Cities by Design I
5433 Modern Housing and Urban Districts Concepts, Cases and Comparisons
5502 Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World
Tokyo Abroad Program Only
1313 Making Omishima the Best Island to Live On In Japan Toyko Study Abroad
Studio Option
5601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar The Japan Syndrome
6601 Tokyo Study Abroad Seminar on Structure and Material in Japan

Camilo Restrepo Ochoa
Bernard Houry
Daniel D'Oca
Peter Rowe
Sibel Bozdogan
Mehrotra, et al
Peter Rowe
Enrique Silva

Toyo Ito

Kayoko Ota
Mits Kanada