

Elective Course “**Re-Enchanting the City: Designing the Human Habitat**”

Abstract: The city is humanity’s most complex and extraordinary artifact. As the world population grows and becomes ever more urban, the making of future cities is no longer just about aesthetics or convenience. Questions of sustainability and culture are more and more crucial. In fact, it can be said that, the future of the city is the future of the species. Understand how cities are made. This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary nature of city making. The focus will be on a cutting-edge, high-density urban infill project, Central Park, in contemporary Sydney. We will use this project to explore the interdependencies of the professions at play; urban design, architecture, construction management, planning, landscape architecture, interior architecture and industrial design.

Learning Objectives: We will investigate the entire development process from the earliest planning and site purchases through to completion, and from the broad contextual scale through to the design intricacies. In so doing, we will examine design innovations in green technologies, structure, construction, environmental and building service, framing this within the wider context of infrastructure, governance and the political economy.

Learning Outcomes: You will analyse the cultural, environmental and political conversations that drive the development, as well as gaining an understanding of how key players interact in city making. Throughout the course you will see how different built environment disciplines relate in this process of planning and creating a city. Drawing on designers, thinkers and developers that are leading their professions, this course will investigate a key question facing global cities today: how do we engage local democracy to make urban density both sustainable and poetic?

Plan:

- a. The professions which makeup the built environment, in the context of the urban case study, Central Park, Sydney.
- b. Hyperdensity and considerations of affordability, open space, public health and joy.
- c. The built environment in the planning process, including how planning works in relation to developments on the ground, the urban regeneration process from concept to masterplan, as well as influences from developers, community, and politics
- d. The nature of urban design and architecture, exploring design diversity and the role of ‘starchitects’ in city making.
- e. Heritage architecture and adaptive reuse.
- f. Strategies and approaches to greening our cities, including renaturing cities, water recycling, energy production and sustainability.
- g. Technology: Application Protocols
- h. The design of interiors looking at the conceptual and spatial connections of inside and out.
- i. The nature of enchantment in city-making and how each of the built environment professions contribute

Reading List: Hinson D., Miller J. (2013) Designed for Habitat: collaborations with Habitat for

Humanity London; New York: Routledge.

Bowie D. (2010) Politics, planning and homes in a world city. London; New York: Routledge.

Grading System: 80% Cumulative Grade +20% Exam

Methods of Instruction: Video lectures