USC School of Architecture
ARCH 303 – Principles of Spatial Design I
Spring 2016
4 Units

Course Information:

Faculty: **Lauren Matchison, AIA**, Assistant Professor of Practice
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Class Sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:50am
Mondays in AHF 145d, Wednesdays in HAR 115a

Office Hours: Watt 339, by appointment

Prerequisite: ARCH 203 Visualizing and Experiencing the Built Environment

To further facilitate learning, this course utilizes Blackboard. Log in using your USC
username and password at: https://blackboard.usc.edu/

Catalog Course Description

Introduction to design principles and processes; sequence of exercises emphasizing
development of basic skills, ideas, and techniques used in the creation of simplified
architecture and urban design projects.

Intent

Following the introduction to various visualization practices used to understand the urban
form and activities as explored in Arch 203; Arch 303, Principles of Spatial Design,
explores a set of fundamental concepts underlying both architectural and urban design.
Within this course exercises ensure each student's understanding of: figure versus field,
the relationship of part to the whole, the creation of sequence and place, the distinction
between scale versus size, and the way that basic spatial typologies and other
organizational ideas can help organize ideas and programmatic needs in architectural
form. In addition, the course is meant to introduce: (1) design methodology (including
ideas of abstraction, concept, reiteration and synthesis); (2) particular digital and model
skills; and (3) to explore precedent study as it relates to design.

Required Text and Readings

Ching F D K (2014) *Form, Space and Order* (Fourth Edition). New York, John Wiley
Calvino Italo (1978) *Invisible Cities*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

Required readings will be assigned and discussed throughout the semester. Readings
not found in the course textbook will be posted to USC Blackboard
(https://blackboard.usc.edu/) or handed out in class.

Recommended Texts

Ching F D K (2009) *Architectural Graphics* (Fifth Edition). New York, John Wiley

Ponsi Andrea (2015) *Analogy and Design*. Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press.
Ponsi Andrea (2011) *Florence: A Map of Perceptions.* Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press.

Required Software

All students must have access to the Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign and Behance.org. There are several ways to do this, including free trials, purchasing the software at a student discount, using the software in USC computer labs, etc. We will discuss the best method for each student as the course progresses.

Adobe Creative Cloud
If you would like to purchase the suite, the cost for students is $19.99/month. Use this website and purchase the "Complete Plan." https://creative.adobe.com/plans

Required Supplies (partial list, other supplies may be needed as the semester progresses)

Pad of 9 x 12 tracing paper
Pad of 8.5 x 11 grid paper
(2) Pentel Sign pens
Sketchbook, 8.5 x 11
Hard drawing surface
Soft lead pencils (HB and 4B)
Hard lead pencils
Pencil sharpener
Eraser
Access to digital camera (phone camera is ok)

Course Requirements

Design Projects

Project 1: Understanding Organizational Systems and Diagramming (Visual Analysis – University Religious Center)
Project 2: Understanding Place through Experience and Analysis
Project 3: Map of Perceptions

Sketchbook
This is meant to be a thorough and well-organized record of and instrument for critical inquiry and design process. The sketchbook is to include (freehand and/or digitally produced) generative diagrams and design sketches, weekly process drawings, Calvino drawings, notes/diagrams/sketches from class work, graphic analysis of relevant precedents, class/lecture/reading notes, as well as any other material relevant to visual exploration in this course. Date and label all entries clearly and in a consistent manner.

Digital Portfolio
Due at the end of the semester, on the day and time of our scheduled final exam (no exceptions- failure to submit is equivalent to failing a final exam). All assignments must be represented in the portfolio; students are advised to regularly document all work. Each of you will create a digital portfolio using Adobe's Behance.org

Participation and Contribution

As this is a design seminar course, students must be prepared to engage and participate each time we meet. We will spend a significant amount of time discussing readings and projects, commenting on student work, and working on project iterations. Each of these components is very interactive and high-level engagement is expected.

Evaluation and Grading

Final grade evaluations will be based on the following breakdown:

Design Projects 60% (3 projects at 20% each)
Digital Portfolio 15%
Sketchbook with Process Work and Reading Notes 15%
Class Contribution and Participation 10%

Work will be evaluated periodically so that you have an indication of your progress. Unsatisfactory performance warnings will be issued to students whose work does not meet minimum requirements. A minimum grade of 'C' is required to continue on to ARCH 403. Consult University polices for IN (incomplete) grades and deadlines for withdrawal ('W' grade).

Course Policies

School of Architecture Attendance Policy
A student may miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (in this case, **two** *excused* absences are permitted) without directly affecting the student's grade and ability to complete the course. An excused absence is a confirmed personal illness, family emergency, or religious holiday. For *each* absence over the allowed number, your grade can be lowered by 1/3-letter grade. If additional absences are required for a personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason/religious observance, you must discuss the situation with your faculty member immediately.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid class for a long bathroom/water break) for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your faculty member as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity
PLAGIARISM IS GROUNDS FOR FAILING THIS COURSE
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by

others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus,* the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Religious Holidays
The University of Southern California recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the add/drop date for registration. After the add/drop date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

Sustainability Initiative
The School of Architecture has adopted the 2010 Initiative for Sustainability. Solutions to design problems must engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.