The City, being the more complex cultural achievement of mankind, can be approached from very diverse disciplines. Nevertheless, Architecture plays the most relevant role in the production of urbanity, since the material and physical space becomes the scene of the rest of human activities. The seminar will claim for the fundamental role that architects play at the city scale. Through the compared analysis of paradigmatic cities the seminar will display an intentional history of the Urban Project and its impact on the construction of the contemporary European and North American city.

“Architects in their cities” is the motto of 6by6. A set of six remarkable case studies (3 European + 3 North American) constitutes the field from where the students will obtain a diverse and rich overview of the architectural approach to the city scale. The selected cities are, on the one hand, the main subject of the most relevant manifestos written by architects in the late XXth Century. On the other, they are acknowledged examples of good practice in the field of urbanism. We will get to know them through six seminal books written by architects: Berlin by O.M. Ungers / Los Angeles by R. Banham / Barcelona by M. de Solà / New York City by R. Koolhaas / Boston by K. Lynch / Rome by L. Quaroni.

6by6 is based on a compared analysis of cities through their most relevant urban episodes as well as through a collection of selected readings. Lecture lessons will highlight the most relevant topics of the course by confronting cities, architectural manifestos and relevant urban episodes. Students will be required to present:

• Three written/graphic comparisons between city pairs (see program weeks -1, -5 & -9)
• One synthetic graphic reflection on a previously discussed topic (weeks 1 & 2).

Proactive participation in the common discussions will be specially encouraged and reflected in the student’s course grade.

Although the most relevant urban episodes through time will be shown in lecture classes, the seminar is not an urban history course, but an intentional statement of the role that architects play in the design of physical urban space.