INTERNATIONAL DESIGN PRACTICE:
Themes, Critiques, and Radical Alternatives

Illinois School of Architecture / Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MW 9-10:20 AM
Temple Buell Hall Room 18
CRN: 70939
Credits: 3

Professor Aneesha Dharwadker
Email: aneesha@illinois.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

OVERVIEW
This graduate seminar surveys contemporary design practice on six continents, introducing students to a wide variety of scales, methods, questions, and positions that are emerging in the 21st century. We will examine the global contexts for practices creating the built environment through lectures, discussions, and case studies. Special focus will be given to organizations staking out new political, cultural, and ethical positions in design.

Deliverables will include short weekly exercises in both visual and written formats. For the final project, students will create their own hypothetical design firms, reinterpreting what it means to practice in design today. This course is open to graduate students in Architecture and Landscape Architecture.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the principles of design practice, from creative process to business development
- Gain exposure to how different practices are carried out across the globe
- Develop a unique voice and position when analyzing existing practices, through writing and diagramming
- Explore methods of expressing and representing your own hypothetical practice
- Practice clear communication in multiple media: writing, speaking, visualizing

TEXTS
Readings will be made available in PDF or hyperlink format on Box.com.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance at all classes from 9-10:20 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays is mandatory. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of each class period. Excused absences must be provided in writing 24 hours in advance, and absences due to illness must be supplemented with a doctor’s note. Three unexcused absences will result in the reduction of one letter grade from the final semester grade. Every two subsequent unexcused absences will result in another letter grade reduction.

Students are expected to participate fully in reading discussions and submit written/visual work on time as directed by the instructor.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND EVALUATION
Grades will be given for reading responses, class discussion participation, and completion of the final project. Detailed point distributions are outlined in the “Assignments” section. Grades will be posted at intervals throughout the semester on Compass.

In compliance with Article 3-102 of the University Student Code, letter grades should be interpreted as follows:
- Excellent (100-90): A+, A, A-
- Good (89-80): B+, B, B-
- Fair (79-70): C+, C, C-
- Poor (69-60): D+, D, D-
- Failure (below 60): F (not acceptable for degree credit)
- Incomplete: I (only allowed in extenuating circumstances, with instructor approval)

See the student code at [http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3_part1_3-102.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3_part1_3-102.html) for more information.

POLICIES AND RESOURCES
Academic Integrity
You are expected to complete your own work unless otherwise indicated by the instructor(s). Plagiarism in any form is not tolerated and will result in immediate failure of the course.

See Article 1 of the Student Code at [http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-401.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-401.html) for more information and university policy.

Research, Writing, and English Language Resources
You have access to different services across campus to assist you with synthesizing and processing course materials, as well as with English language comprehension and writing. Visit the following for more information on workshops and one-on-one sessions.

  - Academic Services Center: [http://www.omsa.illinois.edu/academics/tutoring.html](http://www.omsa.illinois.edu/academics/tutoring.html)
  - Linguistics Department: [http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/esl/academic-conversation-skills.html](http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/esl/academic-conversation-skills.html)
  - Center for Writing Studies: [http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/about/](http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/about/)

Disability Resources and Educational Services
To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, e-mail disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website at [http://disability.illinois.edu/](http://disability.illinois.edu/).

If you are concerned you have a disability-related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available on campus that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability by visiting the DRES website and selecting “Sign-Up for an Academic Screening” at the bottom of the page.
Counseling and Mental Health Support
Counseling Center
Information: 217-333-3704
Location: Room 206, Student Services Building 610 East John Street, Champaign, IL
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
Appointment: Scheduled for same day, recommend calling at 7:50 a.m.
Website: https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/

McKinley Mental Health
Information: 217-333-2705
Location: 3rd Floor McKinley Health Center 1109 South Lincoln, Urbana, IL
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
Appointment: Scheduled in advance
Website: https://mckinley.illinois.edu/medical-services/mental-health

CITATIONS
Sources used in written work or visual presentations should be cited using the Chicago Manual of Style.
Please see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for the “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide.”

ASSIGNMENTS
Reading Responses (20%)
Reading responses should not summarize the readings. Rather, you should synthesize ideas, provide your own position, and develop a voice regarding the issues we cover in lectures and readings. Think of these as short philosophical statements crafted from your unique perspective. Critiques, questions, and contradictions are encouraged.

Written response should be 300-400 words, 11 point Times New Roman font, double spaced. Printed copies are due on Mondays (see schedule) and will be returned with comments the following week.

Some responses will be visual (i.e., you will create a diagram or image to respond to a particular question posed in class). You will receive further guidelines about these throughout the term.

Discussion Participation (20%)
You are expected to participate fully in group discussions. Feedback on your participation will be provided with the midterm assessment.

Final Project, Workshops, and Presentation (60%)
The final project will ask you to propose your own design firm through a series of written and visual exercises, synthesized into a final presentation. Components of this project will include a mission statement, a design process diagram, proposed collaborators, sample project types, and mockups of a website and other digital media. A full set of guidelines will be made available during Week 8.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, visits from guest faculty and practitioners, and informal workshops for developing your final projects. Any changes to the schedule or readings will be announced in class and via email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Design Practice: Overview and Assessments</th>
<th>Aug. 27 &amp; 29</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Course introduction + class survey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Lecture: “Defining Practice”</td>
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**Required Readings:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Design Practice: Methods and Critiques</th>
<th>Sept. 3 &amp; 5</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>NO CLASS (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Discussion + Week 1 reading response due</td>
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**Lecture:** “Design Practice: Methods and Critiques”

**Required Readings:**


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Practice as Ethical Imperative</th>
<th>Sept. 10 &amp; 12</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Discussion + Week 2 reading response due</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Lecture: “Ethical Imperatives in Global Design Contexts”</td>
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**Practices/Organizations:**

Elemental (Chile); Tatiana Bilbao (Mexico); Borderless Studio (US/Mexico); Rural Studio (US); SCAPE (US); f-architecture (US); Orkidstudio (Kenya); Mohamed Amine Siana (Morocco); Forensic Architecture (UK); Ross Langdon (Australia)
### Required Readings:


### Week 4  Practice as For-Profit Business/Service  Sept. 17 & 19

#### Monday
Discussion + Week 3 reading response due

#### Wednesday
Lecture: “Capitalism, Design, and Practice”

**Practices:**
- Skidmore Owings and Merrill (Global)
- Perkins + Will (Global)
- Field Operations (US)
- Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (US)
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro (US)
- SWA (US)
- Kieran Timberlake (US)
- Thomas Phifer and Partners (US)
- Zaha Hadid Architects (UK)
- Turenscape (China)
- Snøhetta (Norway/US)
- Balkrishna Doshi (India)
- Atelier KOÉ (Senegal)
- Openbox Architects (Thailand)

**Required Readings/Videos:**
- Craig Dykers, IIT Dean’s Lecture Series (Spring 2016), 1h 40m. [https://vimeo.com/160148973](https://vimeo.com/160148973)
- Patrik Schumacher, “Only Capitalism Can Solve the Housing Crisis,” Adam Smith Institute, 25 April 2018. [https://www.adamsmith.org/capitalismcansolvethehousingcrisis/](https://www.adamsmith.org/capitalismcansolvethehousingcrisis/)

### Week 5  Practice as Non-Profit Enterprise  Sept. 24 & 26

#### Monday
Discussion + Week 3 reading response due

#### Wednesday
Lecture: “Not-For-Profit Design and Advocacy in the 21st Century”

**Practices:**
- MASS Design Group (US/Rwanda)
- Habitat for Humanity (US)
- Project H Design (US)
- Atlas Lab (US)
- Chicago Mobile Makers (US)
- Shigeru Ban/Voluntary Architects Network (Japan)
- Architecture Sans Frontiers (Spain)
- Kéré Architecture + Foundation (Germany)
- Assemble (UK)

**Required Readings:**
*TBD*
Week 6  Practice as Technological Avant-Garde       Oct. 1 & 3

Monday
Discussion + **Week 5 reading response due**

Wednesday
Lecture: “Technology in Practice: Methods and Implications”

Practices: Gehry Technologies (US); Eric Owen Moss (US); Olson Kundig (US); Tesla (US); Zaha Hadid Architects (UK); Farshid Moussavi Architecture (UK); Thomas Heatherwick (UK); Coop Himmelblau (Austria); Giorgi Khmaladze Architects (Georgia); Herzog & de Meuron (Switzerland); UNStudio (Netherlands/China); PT Bambu/IBUKU (Indonesia)

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Week 7  Practice as Philosophical Avant-Garde        Oct. 8 & 10

Monday
Discussion + **Week 6 reading response due**

Wednesday
Lecture: “Design Philosophy and Guiding Principles”

Practices:
Ballistic Architecture Machine/BAM (China); BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group (Denmark/US); MOS (US); R EX (US); Kanye West/Yeezy Home (US); Philippe Barriere Collective (Tunisia); Biotope (Norway); Atelier Bow Wow (Japan)

Required Readings/Videos:


Additional Readings TBD
Week 8  Final Project Introduction  Oct. 15 & 17

**Monday**
Discussion + Week 7 reading response due
Final Project Introduction

**Wednesday**
Project Workshop 1

Week 9  Practice as Urbanism  Oct. 22 & 24

**Monday**
Project Workshop 2 / Pin-up

**Wednesday**
Lecture: “Architectural Urbanism and Landscape Urbanism”

Practices:
Bernard Tschumi Architects (US/France); OMA (Netherlands/US); Safdie Architects (US/Canada/Israel/Singapore/China); West 8 (Netherlands); Studio Gang (US); Weiss/Manfredi (US); SAOTA (South Africa); Bureau Architecture Méditerranée (France/Algeria/Tunisia)

Required Readings:


Week 10  Practice as Exhibition/Installation/Event  Oct. 29 & 31

**Monday**
Discussion + Week 9 reading response due

**Wednesday**
Lecture: “Temporary Permanence”

Practices/Exhibitions:
Venice Architecture Biennale (Global); PS1 MoMA (Global); Astana Expo (Kazakhstan); Olafur Eliasson (Germany); Michael Heizer (US); Walter Hood/Hood Studio (US); Jenny Sabin (US); Chicago Architecture Biennial (US); Serpentine Pavilions (UK)

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:
Other essays on “Dimensions of Citizenship” website and Form N-X00 online gallery
Week 11  Practice as Interdisciplinary Design Research  Nov. 5 & 7

**Monday**
Discussion + **Week 10 reading response due**

**Wednesday**
Lecture: “Practice as Research and Research and Practice”

Practices:
OP-SYS (US/Canada); Lateral Office (Canada); Somatic Collaborative (US/Ecuador); The Open Workshop (US/Canada); OMA/AMO (US);
Anthony Acciavatti (US); Office for Urbanization (US); Urban-Think Tank (Switzerland); NLÉ Works (Nigeria/Netherlands); axu studio
(US/South Korea); Luis Callejas/LCLA (Colombia/Norway); Rahul Mehrotra/RMA (India/US)

**Required Readings:**
[https://www.nyit.edu/box/features/qa_dongsei_kim_on_how_architecture_can_impact_the_korean_dmz](https://www.nyit.edu/box/features/qa_dongsei_kim_on_how_architecture_can_impact_the_korean_dmz)

Week 12  Practice as Material Construct  Nov. 12 & 14

**Monday**
Discussion + **Week 11 reading response due**

**Wednesday**
Lecture: "Materiality in Design Practice"

Practices:
Frida Escobedo (Mexico); SANAA (Japan); Tadao Ando (Japan); Shigeru Ban (Japan); Kengo Kuma and Associates (Japan); David Adjaye
(UK); Theaster Gates (US); Toshiko Mori Architect (US); Tod Williams Billie Tsien (US); Ten X Ten (US); Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (US);
Hashim Sarkis Studios (Lebanon/US); Studio Symbiosis (India); Rafik Azam (Bangladesh); Tabanlioglu Architects (Turkey/US/UAE/Qatar);
David Chipperfield (UK)

Readings:
Art Institute of Chicago, 2015).

Additional Readings TBD

Week 13  FALL BREAK  Nov. 19-23

Week 14  Final Project Development  Nov. 26 & 28

**Monday**
Discussion + **Week 12 reading response due**

**Wednesday**
Project Workshop 3
Week 15  Final Project Development  Dec. 3 & 5

**Monday**
Project Workshop 4 / Pin-up (if needed)

**Wednesday**
Project Workshop 5

Week 16  Final Presentations  Dec. 10 & 12

**Monday**
Final presentations

**Wednesday**
Final presentations + course evaluations
## COURSE CALENDAR, FALL 2018

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<td>26 Response due; Discussion</td>
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