

Urbanism	
Offered by	Department of Built Environment
Language	English
Primarily interesting for	All students, but most relevant for students with background in Urban Design
Prerequisites	Required courses: - Recommended courses: -
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Content and composition

By 2050 another twenty percent of the world's population will have migrated to cities. Leading UN Habitat to identify sustainable urban development as one of the key challenges for the upcoming century. Currently the urban population is accounted at around 54% of the total global population, determining the shape and challenges that cities face, and the also quality of life of its inhabitants. The questions we raise are, in what way can intelligent urban planning and design contribute to a more sustainable urban ecology, innovative urban economy, righteous and inclusive urban society and frameworks for urban governance in which co-initiative, co-creation and co-design are key ideas? The field of urban design and planning combines research and exploratory design in order to achieve spatial responses to these societal challenges.

Urban design is a wide specialization. It draws inspiration from and merges not only architecture, civil engineering, planning, public space and landscape architecture, but also the social sciences. The scale level on which an urban designer and urban planner works extends from the dwelling, the building plot, the setup of the block and the street, by way of neighborhood, district and city to the region. The interweaving of spatial scale levels and the complexity of space, economy, demography and mobility requires that urban designers and urban planners are familiar with both design and academic research. Thus, in the optional package below, the central focus is on integral and sustainable design, planning and making of the city. To be more specific on the two urban key assignments that make the modern city: on one hand the design of the public space framework of the city and on the other hand the strategic urban project as catalyst for urban development. In both assignments questions of programming, process design and spatial design will be addressed.

Course code	Course name	Level classification
7W0X0	Landscape and Public Space	2
7X2X0	Urban Case Study	1

Course description

7W0X0 Landscape and Public Space

In many prospects the design of landscape and public space is the counterweight of the city and its buildings. It carries public life contrary to the private atmosphere of the house. It brings nature to the city and connects the city with its landscape surroundings. It is the spot where people meet, play and have a chat, or take part in sports and cultural activities and thus the public space adds indirectly to the public spirit and sense of community and citizenship. In this course the focus is on the design of the landscape and the public space. Both the historic development of public space and landscape design as well as the more technical ways in which sub-soil, civil engineering, vegetation, infra structure, pavement, and furniture together determine the landscape and the public space are addressed in the course. Also the formative issues of how the landscape also forms a natural, ecological system in which many processes together determine growth and flowering of flora and fauna and the natural character of landscape and townscape will be explained. This course acts as an introduction to the follow-up master course 'Theory and Design of the Public Domain'.

7X2X0 Urban Case Study

During the last decades the strategic urban project has gained a key position in urban development. Where the urban masterplan had the ambition to note down the urban development in its full extent for decades, the strategic urban project stakes at an aimed intervention on a specific location in the city, with a clear realization horizon, same actors, finance, and contracts and a program that particularly aims at boosting further urban development in a wider area and for a longer period of time. Thus, the big urban project as a catalyst of an evolutionary urban development instead of a future blueprint realization. In this subject at least two case studies will be deepened and studied. In an integral analysis all dimensions of the project will be illustrated from the different perspectives of involved disciplines and concerned parties. At the same time attention will be paid to the big transitions in urban development in the field of governance, sustainability, feasibility, smart city technology and so on. This course acts as an introduction to the follow-up master course 'Urban Trends'.