MAKING METROPOLIS 7/8
Rethinking Metropolitan Habitats
THINK WITH YOUR BODY

Architects, like dancers who are choreographers, both inhabit and conceive their work. We compose naturally through our bodies, using all our senses. We apprehend ourselves and our surroundings physically well before we do intellectually. Thus, it is of fundamental interest that Embodiment and the Senses have emerged as the focus of recent, dramatic breakthroughs in the human sciences. They concern the way we perceive, respond to and understand the world through primal biological operations. This studio explores the meaning and implications of these sensibilities to make a distinct Metropolitan Place: an active, evolving Place of diversity and freedom within a distinct framework - bodies within a grid and nature - integrating practice with a coherent theoretical strategy.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

This studio will develop the same building program in two major American cities - Chicago and Los Angeles - over two academic terms. In the Fall Term the focus will be on Wabash Avenue in the Chicago Loop. In the Spring it will be on Sunset Boulevard at the foot of the Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles. In both terms students will design 750,000 SF of mixed-use within a housing format.

In Chicago, five underutilized parcels along Wabash will be identified as a means of merging “streets on the ground” with “streets in the air.” In Los Angeles, a single site at 8150 Sunset Boulevard will become an opportunity to merge Nature and the City. The urban conditions of these sites will allow students to develop two unique “Spirits of Place.”
GOOD SPACE

Architects must make good space. Space is “good” if it can adapt to a wide variety of functions which satisfy basic human needs of shelter, habitation, work, learning, changing, enjoyment, beauty and spirituality. Mies van der Rohe called this Universal Space. Some now call this Hybrid Space.

Good Space is Mixed-Use Space. It has become customary to realize that manufacturing spaces can become living spaces, that department stores can become offices, that offices can become schools, that schools can become clinics, that a space calibrated for one use can become appropriate for another use, that form can be inflexible if over-prescribed by function.

Good Space is space that doesn’t know what its functions might be over time. It must be prepared to adapt readily. This includes both interior and exterior space.

Good Space is not neutral. It creates unique character and poetry that derives from its place, its making, its materials and its unique social and economic forces. One place of Good Space is different from another place of Good Space as each adapts to location, sociability, ambition, technology, financing, politics, culture and all the ever-varying rhythms of life.

In both Chicago and Los Angeles, the studio intends to develop authentic and compelling Good Spaces.

Department Store now Retail, Office and School

Warehouse now Home
LIVING BY MAKING

Building 60 feet wide effectively accommodates 750 SF minimum, naturally ventilated living modules across a double-loaded corridor. Toilet and kitchen shafts must be constructed for each module. But neither these services nor demising partitions should be built out in base construction. This allows for flexible “Good Space” for a wide variety of other uses such as office spaces, maker spaces and educational spaces. A unique economic model emerges: “starter” units for all types of people entering the urban housing market become affordable by self-building the services.

Typical floor-to-floor height will be 13”-4” to accommodate all uses, providing basic graciousness to even the smallest module. Two exit stairs must be provided plus every 75,000 requires an elevator. Double-skin facades of varying depth are encouraged.
The Loop
Chicago
Increasingly, as dense urban centers become the beating hearts of a broad Metropolis, the Street is our everyday Public Realm. It is not just a place to drive. We eat there, we meet there. It is where we purchase and play, relax or do business, learn and act out, connect to others - physically and virtually - finding identity.

Wabash is a unique street. It is not the open parlour of State Street nor wide LaSalle soaring to the glory of commerce. It is not the three great living room plazas bordered by Dearborn and Clark. It is the vestibule, the “inglenook” to the Loop. As you walk in from Michigan, Wabash welcomes you by immediately wrapping you within the energy and noise, the fire and intimacy of Chicago.

Wabash is a two-level street: the pavements below, the tracks above. People of all stations of life begin and end their days here. Wabash has the critical mass to become a multi-level, 24-7 place, a place where Culture and Joy are deeply intertwined.

KIDS IN THE CITY

Play should become integral to Habitat and integral to Wabash. Forms of Play are the first expressions of innate human needs: spirit, rhythm, harmony, change, contrast, curiosity, climax, honor, beauty, mystery, fairness and excellence. Sometimes pretend, sometimes serious, play forms are the starting points for the rituals and building blocks of a civil society.

This is the future of Wabash: a Playground as the Doorstep to the City. Wabash should automatically humanize the Loop.
SITE
Making Metropolis 7

As an investigation into the particular and peculiar “spirit of place” that Chicago and its Loop offers, four movies set in and about Chicago will be viewed and discussed.

_Scarface_ directed by Howard Hawks, 1932

_The Man With The Golden Arm_ directed by Otto Preminger, 1955

_Medium Cool_ directed by Haskell Wexler, 1968

_High Fidelity_ directed by Stephen Frears, 2001
San Fernando Valley

Cahuenga Canyon Boulevard
Hollywood Freeway (101)

Laurel Canyon Boulevard

Coldwater Canyon Drive

Sepulveda Boulevard
San Diego Freeway (405)

Beverly Glen Boulevard

West LA

Downtown LA

Sunset Boulevard

Canyon Passes in the Santa Monica Mountains
Sunset Boulevard connects Downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains. It is a Storied Street, mixing Nature and Culture: Canyons and Entertainment, Beauty and Business, Horticulture and Honky-Tonk. And it all comes together at the Strip, which begins where Laural Canyon meets the Boulevard.


However, Los Angeles - along with all of California - is now experiencing serious drought conditions. Water is at a premium. Future development must seek environmentally aware solutions that are inherent in the area’s geology, ecology and hydrology.

Mountain canyons are more than routes of passage. Cahuenga Canyon, Laurel Canyon, Coldwater Canyon, Beverly Glen and the Sepulveda Pass always collected water run-off, engendering the diversity of plant and wildlife growth along the stream beds - before they became primary transportation arteries.

Now they have become the seats of Culture.

The opportunity to consider building form as a Canyon Garden - receiving and dispensing storm and sewage waste - immediately presents itself.
As an investigation into the particular and peculiar “spirit of place” that Los Angeles offers, four movies set in and about Los Angeles will be viewed and discussed.

*Sunset Boulevard* directed by William Wilder, 1950

*Chinatown* directed by Roman Polanski, 1974

*Pulp Fiction* directed by Quentin Tarantino, 1994

*Mulholland Drive* directed by David Lynch, 2001
EXPERTISE / KNOWLEDGE GAINED
Making Metropolis 7/8

Students will work in teams of three under the direction of the professor. Each team will develop a distinct and separate strategy for both the building and the street. Simulating an actual office situation in competition for a commission, the students will become prepared for future professional conditions.

In the Fall Term, students will investigate issues intrinsic to urban cores: streetscapes, infrastructures, vehicular movements, construction logistics, financial procurement, air rights, retail merchandising and the public realm.

In the Spring Term, students will continue the investigations begun in the Fall Term and apply them to a rapidly expanding decentralized urban metropolis with unique topographic and climatic conditions.

By choreographing and designing the experiences embodied within these issues, students will develop a sense of the tough-mindedness, flexibility and sensitivity required to organize a 24/7 Mixed-Use City amidst the politics, power plays, surprises, misinformation and propaganda that operate behind the stories and glories of Making Metropolis.
TIMELINE
Making Metropolis 7

The studio will be organized in two phases. Initially the students will build a context site model of the site area and research Good Space. Then project design will commence. Each week each team will receive regular desk critiques. There will be a Mid-Term Review and a Final Review. Reviews will be with IIT faculty and practicing professionals from outside the school.

Schedule:

Week 1  Introduction: Team formation; Site Walk; Begin base site model; Begin Good Space studies
Week 2  Continue base site model; Good Space studies
Week 3  Complete base site model; Good Space studies
Week 4  Begin Project Design
Week 5  Continue Project Design
Week 6  Continue Project Design
Week 7  Prepare for Mid-Term Review
Week 8  Mid-Term Review
Week 9  Assess Mid-Term Review
Week 10 Adjust Project Design
Week 11 Adjust Project Design
Week 12 Prepare for Final Review
Week 13 Prepare for Final Review
Week 14 Prepare for Final Review
Week 15 Final Review
TIMELINE
Making Metropolis 8

The studio will be organized in two phases. Initially the students will build a context site model of the site area, make a field trip to the site and research site context. Then project design will commence. Each week each team will receive regular desk critiques. There will be a Mid-Term Review and a Final Review. Reviews will be with IIT faculty and practicing professionals from outside the school.

Schedule:

- Week 1  Introduction: Team formation; Begin base site model
- Week 2  Complete base site model
- Week 3  Context Studies; Field Trip
- Week 4  Continue Field Trip; Begin Project Design
- Week 5  Continue Project Design
- Week 6  Continue Project Design
- Week 7  Continue Project Design
- Week 8  Prepare for Mid-Term Review
- Week 9  Mid-Term Review
- Week 10  Spring Break
- Week 11  Adjust Project Design
- Week 12  Adjust Project Design
- Week 13  Prepare for Final Review
- Week 14  Prepare for Final Review
- Week 15  Prepare for Final Review
- Week 16  Final Review
REQUIREMENTS
Making Metropolis 7/8

The studio will meet three times a week (M/W/F) from 2 PM to 6 PM in Crown Hall. In addition to these 12 hours per week, an additional 24 hours per week (minimum) will be required to perform work in an adequate manner. Teamwork will be essential to success in the studio.

Attendance in all classes is mandatory. Two unexcused absences will result in a drop of a letter grade. Three unexcused absences will result in two letter grades. Four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

Completion of all deliverables at both Mid-Term Review and Final Review is mandatory to receive a passing grade. Final grades will, however, ultimately be based on performance at Final Review. Please refer to the graduate bulletin for official IIT university grading policies.

This studio require continuous and intense efforts. The projects are ambitious and complex in their comprehensive nature, their urban issues and their place-based path of embodied discovery.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Center for Disability Resources office. The CENTER for DISABILITY RESOURCES (CDR) is located in Life Sciences Room 218, telephone 312 567.5744 or @iit.edu.
EXPERTISE / KNOWLEDGE GAINED
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The following Bibliography will form the philosophical basis of research, critique and commentary throughout the year.

EXPERTISE / KNOWLEDGE GAINED
Making Metropolis 7/8


CURRICULUM VITAE
Making Metropolis 6

Steven Brubaker

An Arthur Lehmann Scholar while at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, Mr. Brubaker has received over a dozen AIA Design Honor Awards. Well published, for many years he was a Design Principal with Hellmuth Obata + Kassabaum where he designed and had built over 10,000,000 SF in dense urban sites across the world. His work includes several landmark buildings: the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the Anaheim Convention Center across from Disneyland, the Thomas Eagleton Federal Courthouse in St. Louis, Tuntex Tower in Kaoshung, Taiwan and the Phoenix Convention Center. In 2003 he was the Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor of Design at Washington University in St. Louis and in 2005 the Van Sante Visiting Professor of Design at South Dakota State University. Now with his own practice in Chicago Mr. Brubaker continues to participate in conceiving large urban developments as well as designing several higher education facilities and specialty projects.

Instructor: Steven Brubaker (shbrubaker@sbcglobal.net)
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