
Landscape Architecture 21
Landscape Graphics
COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

Fall Quarter 2008
Mondays and Wednesdays 9am – 1pm
Location:
CRN #:

Instructor: David de la Peña
Office:
Office Hours: W 12 - 1pm, & by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Given our current ecological predicament, the challenge for environmental designers is to find ways to re-create the urban form that sprawls around us. At first glance, improvement comes easy with an uninspiring starting point. But change often eludes designers who fail to find consensus among the many stakeholders who lay claim to the status quo.

This course has an Urban Design focus. Our laboratory will be local. We will explore the re-invention of outmoded suburban corridors, from uninspiring local streets to dying regional strip-malls. First, we will look for possibilities along a minor arterial in Davis. Next, we will tackle a massive urban transformation being planned in Sacramento – the re-invention of a regional corridor adjacent to a decommissioned military base.

In each project, issues of land use, urban form, ecology, transit, economic viability, and place-making will be discussed. Students will find precedents, map existing conditions, and propose interventions to parts or the whole of the corridors.

READINGS

Required:
Chip Sullivan, Drawing the Landscape, Hoboken, Wiley, 2004.
Grant W. Reid, Landscape Graphics, New York, Watson-Guption, 2002.

Optional:
Rendow Yee, Architectural Drawing, New York, Wiley, 1997.
Francis Ching, Architecture: Form, Space & Order, New York, Wiley, 1996.

STUDIO POLICIES

The development of professional skills and work habits is an integral part of this course and a critical goal for LDA's professionally accredited degree program in Landscape Architecture. Students must develop effective project planning and time management methods. Toward those ends the following course policies will be in effect throughout the semester:

1. All studio submissions, including interim materials, are to be submitted on the due dates indicated for that project. Products that are not complete at the deadline must still be submitted and will be graded as is. Exceptions to this policy will only be granted in cases of extreme extenuating circumstances (life threatening illness, etc.) where appropriate documentation is provided. Requests should be made as far in advance of the due date as possible.
2. The class period is an active working period. **Students are required to be in studio and actively advancing their projects throughout the class period.** Students may not leave the studio except with the instructors' permission. Students are not permitted to passively await the instructor's desk side critique. Nor are they permitted to work on projects for other courses. The level of effort during studio hours will be a component of each project evaluation.

3. Students must be equipped with the required materials and supplies at every class meeting (see below).
4. Students must be prepared to demonstrate substantial progress on their projects at each class meeting. Such progress indicates the level of effort outside of class periods each student expends upon his or her project and will compose part of their grade.
5. Consultation with fellow students is encouraged. Students often learn most from one another.
6. No extensions will be granted for late projects.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Every student must be equipped with the following materials and supplies necessary for active effort during class periods:

Sketchbook (Hardcover, 8½ x 11)
 18x24" Newsprint Pad
 Roll(s) of Trace Paper (12" & 24" recommended)
 Engineer's Scale
 Architect's Scale
 Rolling Rule
 Triangles (30/60 and 45 degree, ink edge profile)
 Adjustable Triangle
 Circle Template
 Drafting Tape or Dots
 Drafting Table Brush
 Erasers (Mars Plastic and Kneaded Eraser at minimum)
 Eraser Shield
 "Pounce" bad, Scum X , or other dry drafting powder
 Viewfinder
 Lead Holder & Lead (graphite) in various hardnesses (B, HB, H, 2H)
 Lead Pointer
 Drawing Pencils (experiment with brands and hardnesses (9B is softest, 9H is hardest, HB is mid-range)
 Pencil Sharpener / Pencil Sanding Block
 Disposable Technical Pens in various widths (005, 01, 03, 05, 08)
 Charcoal sticks
 Prismacolor Pencils (preferably 100 pc set)
 Optional: Color Markers
 Optional: Portable Watercolor Set (Windsor Newton Cotman Sketchers Travel Set)

EVALUATION

Attendance in studio is mandatory. Final grades for the course will be determined by the quality of your design projects, attendance, and engagement in course exercises and discussions.

It is expected that assignments will be completed in a timely manner and meet the expectations outlined in each exercise handout. The studio is a five-credit course. You will be evaluated on the following criteria:

20%	Project 1 – SEEING – Site Discovery & Documentation
20%	Project 2 – THINKING – Design Process
20%	Project 3 – COMMUNICATING – Design Presentation
10%	Portfolio
10%	Sketchbook
20%	In-Class Exercises & Homework

A Excellent

- B Good
- C Fair
- D barely passing
- F not passing (work so poor that it must be repeated to receive recognition)

The grades A, B, C and D may be modified by a plus (+) or minus (-).

COURSE SCHEDULE
LDA 191 – Winter, 2008

WEEK	DAY	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	READING	DUE
				10 Dec 1	**WORK**
				Dec 3	**WORK**
					REVIEW
				11	
1	Sep 29	Introductions	Material Demo	<i>Sullivan: 1,2,4</i>	In Class Drawing Exercise
	Oct 1	(Un)learning to SEE	Contour Lines Negative Space	<i>Sullivan</i>	Plein Air Sketches
2	Oct 6	Light as form	Light Form Tone	<i>Sullivan 6</i>	
	Oct 8	Finding Patterns	Patterns Textures	LDA 191 – Fall 2008 Landscape Graphics Studio, David de la Peña, Instructor	
3	Oct 13	Reading a Site, Finding Meaning	Figure Ground	PROJECT ONE: SEEING – Discovering and Documenting a Site	
	Oct 15	REVIEW	REVIEW		PROJECT 1
4	Oct 20	Abstract Drawings	Plans, Sections, Elevations	<i>Handout</i>	
	Oct 22	Overlays and Diagrams	Diagrams	<i>Reid 4</i>	
5	Oct 27	Visualizing Possibilities	Freehand Perspectives	As the Landscape Architecture Program moves from Walker Hall at the end of this Quarter, we will take one last opportunity to discover the landscape around this building. We will use the rear courtyard and loading dock as a source of drawing material. This landscape is full of possible drawing compositions, from the natural to the manicured to the industrial and even post-industrial.	
	Oct 29	**WORK**			
6	Nov 3	**REVIEW**	REVIEW		PROJECT 2
	Nov 5	Composition		<i>Sullivan 8</i>	
7	Nov 10	Conventions	Scale: Symbols, Lettering	<i>Reid 7, Sullivan 7</i>	
	Nov 12	Constructed Views	Axonometrics, Perspectives	Learning to See what you See, not what you Assume you See <i>Reid 8, Sullivan 9</i>	
8	Nov 17	Color	Rendering	1. Drawing Contours 2. Drawing Shape	
	Nov 19	**WORK**		4. Drawing with Light (Form, Shade, Shadow, Tone) <i>Sullivan 13</i>	
9	Nov 24	**REVIEW**	REVIEW	5. Drawing Patterns 6. Finding the Essence of a Site Using the above tools	PROJECT 3
	Nov 26	Portfolio Basics		<i>Sullivan 14</i>	

Activity One – Research: Students will organize into 5 small groups to research one of the above topics. They will document their findings in written and graphic form. Research will entail the gathering of information about precedents, design criteria, and applicable theories. **(Due: Wed, Jan 16)**

Activity Two – Mapping: In the same small groups, students will map the corridor, staying focused on their topics. Base aeriels and GIS data will be provided. Maps should be analyses of the existing conditions, and they should also suggest where interventions are appropriate. **(Due Wed, Jan 23)**

Activity Three - Concept & Focus Area Plans: Working individually, students will prepare both an overall corridor concept plan as well as a more focused design study. Focus studies may be specific geographical areas (i.e. a shopping center or school frontage) or a thematic study (i.e. storm-water management or streetscape). **(Due Mon, Feb 4)**

FINAL PROJECT SUBMITTAL:

A composition of 3 distinct drawings tied together by an overall plan of the area.

- 1. Contour Drawing**
- 2. Light Study**
- 3. Pattern and Texture Study**