City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
with effect from Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Theory and Criticism of Architecture
Course Code:	CA6302
Course Duration:	1 Semester (Some courses offered in Summer Term may start a few weeks earlier than the normal University schedule. Please check the teaching schedules with CLs before registering for the courses.)
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims at exploring the prominent theory and criticism of architecture worldwide. The course focuses primarily on theoretical discourses and contemplations in several directions since the 1970s:
- Generic City, the global city of late capitalism (Castells, Sassen, Koolhaas);
- Post-colonialism and architecture in Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America (tropical modernism);
- China/Asian modernism (modern contemporary) – Beijing, Shanghai, HK, Seoul, Singapore, Tokyo;
- Architectonic and buildability;
- Infrastructural architecture;
- Transnational design in the global era;
- Architecture in the AI age.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	Describe the background and performance of various theories;		✓	✓	
2.	Discuss the influence of theory and criticism on the building practice;		✓	✓	
3.	Demonstrate understanding of the prominent figures and their ecological environment;		✓	✓	✓
4.	Criticize architectural phenomena and matters.			✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours / week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	Students will engage in lectures that involve the introduction of architectural theory and criticism, about social, environmental, and historical contexts. Local and international cases will also be considered.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tutorials	Students will engage in tutorials with in-class discussions and activities on problems related to lecture themes.	✓	✓	✓		

Semester Hours:	3 hours per week
Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix:	Lecture (2); Tutorial (1); Laboratory (-)

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks / Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 70%						
Assignments	✓	✓	✓	✓	70%	
Examination: 30% (duration: 2 hours)						
					100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Assignments	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND and APPLY theories and knowledge of topics related to urban design and planning; CAPACITY to EXPLORE, INVESTIGATE, and ORGANIZE knowledge and ideas in topics related to urban design and planning; CAPACITY to DISCUSS, ANALYZE, INNOVATE on given problems or scenarios in topics related to urban design and planning	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Examination	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND theories and knowledge of topics related to urban design and planning	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Assignments	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND and APPLY theories and knowledge of topics related to urban design and planning; CAPACITY to EXPLORE, INVESTIGATE, and ORGANIZE knowledge and ideas in topics related to urban design and planning; CAPACITY to DISCUSS, ANALYZE, INNOVATE on given problems or scenarios in topics related to urban design and planning	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Examination	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND theories and knowledge of topics related to urban design and planning	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus
(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Generic city; S, M, L, XL; Consumerism and architecture; global cities; Post-colonialism; tropical modernism; regional architecture; stadium diplomacy; experimental architecture in China; local identity; East Asian modern; Transnational design; cross-border practice; urban complex; cultural mega-structure; architectonic; skin and facade engineering; Infrastructural architecture; AI design; Man and AI cooperation.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings
(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Nil

2.2 Additional Readings
(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Crysler, G; Heynen, H. and Cairns, S. *The Sage Handbook of Architectural Theory*, London: Sage Publication, 2011.
2.	Grahame Shane D., *Urban Design Since 1945: A Global Perspective*, New York: Wiley, 2011.
3.	Zhu, J., Chen, W. and Li, H. *The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Architecture*, London and New York: Routledge, 2023.
4.	Xue, C. Q. L., *Grand Theater Urbanism: Chinese cities in the 21st century*. Singapore: Springer, 2019.
5.	Xue, C. Q. L. and Ding, G. *Exporting Chinese Architecture: history, issues and One Belt One Road*. Singapore: Routledge, 2022.
6.	Frampton, K. Studies in Tectonic Culture: the poetics of construction in Nineteenth and Twenties Century. Boston: MIT Press, 1995.
7.	Heathcott, J. *The Routledge Handbook on Infrastructure Designs: global view from architectural history*, London and New York: Routledge, 2022.
8.	Koolhaas, R. and Mau, B. *S, M, L, XL*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1997.
9.	As, I. and Basu, P. *The Routledge Companion to Artificial Intelligence in Architecture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2021.
10.	McNeill, D. *The Global Architect: firms, fame and urban form*. London and New York: Routledge, 2009.
11.	Bishop, R., Philips, J. and Yeo, W. *Postcolonial Urbanism*. New York: Routledge, 2003.