

Landscape And Environment

The course is given by Elissa Rosenberg from the Architecture faculty.

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to contemporary urban landscape architecture in the Israeli context, exploring the environmental and social issues that shape the design of public space. Basic concepts in urban ecology and sustainability will be discussed as frameworks for design. Students will be introduced to seminal figures in environmental planning and urbanism, from F.L. Olmsted, Ian McHarg to Jane Jacobs. Sustainable practices will be discussed in relation to contemporary urban landscape design including parks, streets, neighborhoods and public works.

Course Objectives

- Develop understanding of urban ecological processes
- Acquire a conceptual vocabulary for the understanding of landscape architecture as a social and spatial art
- Explore design strategies in contemporary works of landscape architecture and urbanism in Europe, N. America and Israel
- Understanding the unique characters of Israel in the international context

Course Format

The class will combine lectures and discussion of readings. Lectures will be illustrated by visual documentation of built projects. All readings will be available on Moodle. Attendance is required.

Students who are ill or need to miss class must notify me in advance by email. Students who miss more than 3 classes without justified cause will not get a passing grade.

Course themes

1. **Every day landscapes and public space:** the origin of public parks, public life of the street and open space, landscapes of memory
2. **Landscape as urban structure:** relationship of landscape to urban design and ecological systems

<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Systems and flows: urban ecological principles, environmental planning methods; water sensitive design, urban greening and reclamation of industrial sites.4. Field Trips

Course Requirements

There will be 2 assignments and a final exam.

Urban Diary and pecha kucha (25%)

1. Reading Presentation/lead discussion: (25%)
2. Final exam (50%)

Assignments

1. Haifa guide: urban diaries and Pecha Kucha

This is an exercise in the discovery and observation of a small urban space, and the documentation of how people interact with the physical environment. The purpose of the exercise is to develop new ways of reading public space by discovering relationships between the design of the physical environment and the way it is used and inhabited. Choose a public space in Haifa- either a park, a main street, a market, etc. that is an active space. Document the public life of the space with photographs that capture the different activities that take place. (include close-ups of materials and wide angle shots of the whole space, as well as the surrounding area, where you find it to have an impact on your space). Try to understand how the space itself encourages or discourages certain activities, patterns of movement, places of rest or gathering. What gives the space its unique identity? How does the space “make the social order visible” (J.B.Jackson)? Pay attention to the patterns of movement; the relationships of buildings to open space; shade, sun, wind, noise, visibility, safety, intimacy, accessibility. What kind of activities did you observe? Which areas are active, and which areas are dead? Why?

Arrange your photos in a powerpoint with a caption for each. You will be asked to present your “urban diary” as a “pecha kucha”- 20 slides x 20 seconds per slide. Include one title slide and one map that locates your site. You may also include several supporting slides that give historical information on the site, or other background visual materials that help you explain your ideas.

2. Reading- critique and presentation

Prepare a powerpoint presentation on one of the required readings. Provide a summary of the article, clearly indicating the main arguments of the text. Include your own response to the article: what did you find interesting/problematic/unclear. Prepare questions for class discussion.