

Course guide

210620 - IDSP - Comprehensive Design: Systems and Programmes

Last modified: 27/05/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 752 - RA - Departamento de Representación Arquitectónica.
Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADVANCED STUDIES IN DESIGN-BARCELONA (Syllabus 2017). (Optional subject).
Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: JOSEP MARIA FORT MIR
Others: Segon quadrimestre:
 JOSEP MARIA FORT MIR - DC2

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The subject focuses on the design to collective scale and social scope, all assuming for any object, space, product and/or service the complexity and belonging to a physical, social and cultural context. Theory and practice develop in parallel. The theoretical sessions provide references to general culture on the subject and orientations of application to exercises and orientations of application to the exercises of the project that are performed.

The projects are presented through lectures to the whole class, where they are discussed. This subject is organized in a laboratory way, testing different possibilities of development and has the participation of a company or institution that, generically, will act as a reference to the development and application of the product in a real context.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Provide students with knowledge about the design process linked to social and cultural aspects, from the collective scale understood in its complexity integrating sections from the emotive aspects related to users to technological, economic and productive aspects related to situation and context.

Learn how to use design as a research tool, understanding the practice of the project as an experimental exercise that allows evaluating, through specific proposals, the application of the theoretical frameworks of reference and the starting hypotheses in real cases, as well as its impact within of a specific context

Identify the incidence of the different areas of design in the conception, creation, development and use of a product as part of a complex system, developing the ability to determine the weight of each section in the process through the application of several Project strategies.

Develop the critical capacity concerning the objects and the built environment, at the various scales simultaneously, to detect dysfunctions and/or contradictions in the design and operation of products concerning both individual and social needs, as well as shortcomings and New areas of design application in foreseeable situations in the near or immediate future.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Self study	87,5	70.00
Hours large group	37,5	30.00

Total learning time: 125 h



CONTENTS

Integral Design. Systems and Programmes

Description:

The theoretical referents focus on:

- Situationism. The society of the spectacle.
- Psychogeography, objects spaces and urban systems. Collective memory and social significance.
- Communication, systems and networks.
- Urban regeneration and participatory public space

Theoretical sessions deal with topics such as:

- Barcelona and the urban project. Urban complexity and collective spaces.
- The public space as a route. The "urban wandering"
- Nature and artifice. The myth of paradise.
- The meeting space. From the table to the urban public space. Places and markets
- Object, space and landscape. Topography and cartography
- Artificial urban systems. Archigram and Archizoom
- Neo-vernacular architecture. Generative design.

The areas of development of the designs are, generically:

- Public space, furniture and urban art. Elements, monuments and collective memory
- Micro-architecture
- Ecology and urban agriculture
- Ephemeral architecture and temporary events
- Collective and participatory activities
- Mobility, transport systems and information
- New construction systems, design and robotization

Practical exercises, which consist of the Design of a System made up of a series of related products in a network, focus on the collective scale and take design as part of social and participatory activities, in a broad sense the design is proposed with an experimental nature. The general approach consists in:

- Reading and personalized understanding, according to a certain point of view, of the complexity of the urban space in its different aspects.
- Analysis of existing or unpublished complex urban systems, with the determination of emerging users' needs and intervention areas.
- Proposals for new systems designed to be applied in a specific context of the city of Barcelona, understood as a laboratory, but at the same time considered as examples that allow their application in different contexts.
- Technical and formal development of the design of the physical elements of the system from two aspects: with the theoretical proposal and with a resolution of its real physical application.

Full-or-part-time: 108h

Laboratory classes: 36h

Self study : 72h

GRADING SYSTEM

Evaluation system Continuous (%) Final Evaluation (%)

Personal presentations 70%

Work assessment 70% 30%

Project assessment 70% 30%

Continued evaluation

The continuous evaluation will be based on the attendance and participation in class and the quality of the work that the students will develop during the course, through the delivery of assignments and oral presentations, according to the established criteria and schedule. Attendance, participation and coursework account for 70% of the grade, determined by the grade obtained in the presentations modified according to the percentage of attendance in classes.

Final evaluation

Complements the continuous assessment (30% of the grade). The content involves the development and documentation of the research and design work carried out and presented throughout the class sessions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Plans i projectes per a Barcelona: 1981/1982 [on line]. 2a ed. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona, 1983 [Consultation: 30/09/2020]. Available on: Accés lliure <http://hdl.handle.net/11703/103412>. ISBN 8450083435.
- Coverley, M. Psicogeografia. Madrid: Carpe Noctem, 2014. ISBN 9788494118272.
- Solà-Morales, Manuel de. Deu lliçons sobre Barcelona: els episodis urbanístics que han fet la ciutat moderna = Ten lessons on Barcelona: urbanistic episodes that have made the modern city. Barcelona: Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya, 2008. ISBN 9788496842236.
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- Fort, Josep M. "Nature and artifice: a search for a new balance". Temes de disseny [on line]. 2000, núm. 16, p. 165-178 [Consultation: 30/09/2020]. Available on: <http://www.raco.cat/index.php/Temes/article/view/29577/67954> (accés obert).
- Made by Robots: Challenging Architecture at a Larger Scale. London: Academy Press, 2014. ISBN 9781118535486.
- Re-imagining the city: art, globalization and urban spaces. Bristol: Intellect Ltd, 2013. ISBN 9781841507316.
- Montgomery, Ch. Happy city: transforming our lives through urban design. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. ISBN 9780374168230.
- Calvino, Italo. Invisible Cities. London: Vintage, 1997. ISBN 9780099429838.
- Fort Mir, Josep M; Stempka, Thomas; Becerra, Giovanny; Noguera, Verónica; Pineda, Antonio; Valls Dalmau, Francesc. Dissenyem comerç. L'Eixample Esquerra de Barcelona : design studies [on line]. Primera edició. Barcelona: Iniciativa Digital Politècnica. Oficina de Publicacions Acadèmiques Digitals de la UPC, octubre de 2022 [Consultation: 15/06/2023]. Available on: <https://upcommons.upc.edu/handle/2117/375475>. ISBN 9788419184542.

Complementary:

- Barcelona espais i escultures (1982-1986). Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona. Àrea d'Urbanisme i Obres Públiques: Fundació Joan Miró, 1987. ISBN 8476091362.
- Fort, Josep M. Arquitectura de pèrgoles i umbracle: un instrument per a l'aprenentatge de l'arquitectura. Saarbrücken: Academia Española, 2012. ISBN 9783848455478.
- Qadeer, Mohammed A. Multicultural Cities: Toronto, New York, and Los Angeles. Toronto: University of Toronto, 2016. ISBN 9781442630147.
- Continuous productive urban landscapes: designing urban agriculture for sustainable cities. Amsterdam, etc: Elsevier, 2005. ISBN 9780750655439.
- Roca: 100 años diseño a diseño. Barcelona: Roca Sanitario, 2018. ISBN 9788409053483.

RESOURCES

Hyperlink:

- <http://atenea.upc.edu/moodle/>. Academic Intranet.