Plan 752  Principles of Site Planning and Urban Design

Prof. Andrew H. Whittemore

Fall 2015

Overview

This course examines site planning as a process of creating the built environment. The elements a site planner considers are diverse, including site hydrology, soils, vegetation, topography, uses, building arrangement and form, access, and so on. Regulation, markets, and local community cultures also demand that site planning operates with careful consideration of wider, off-site natural and human environments. In this class we will review historical and contemporary theories of site planning that have guided site planners’ responses to sites. Over the course of the semester, working in teams, you will conduct a series of site analyses and design exercises, concluding with a final proposed site design. You will also develop the use of the 3D modeling software, SketchUp.

Logistics

The class meets on Thursdays from 3:30 – 6:15pm in Phillips 385. Class sessions will consist of lecture and discussion followed by site visits, tours, films or skill-building exercises. SketchUp training sessions will be held in Davis 247 on October 1 and 8, and in Davis 246 on October 23, where SketchUp is installed at all workstations.

Readings and Texts

All readings are available on the Plan 752 Sakai class website at https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/plan752_fall15 - with the exception of those labeled e-book which can be viewed online through http://library.unc.edu/ . There is no required text, but the following books will be useful for assignments and as complements to the required readings. A copy of each is on reserve at the undergraduate library:

Sketchbooks

On a weekly basis we will be conducting sketching exercises in class. You are required to purchase a sketchbook – 8"x5" or slightly larger would be suitable - for use in these exercises and to use for your own development in or out of class.

Computer Software

No prior experience with SketchUp is required for the course, but you should familiarize yourself with software prior to our first lab session in October. The best resource for using SketchUp is available online at http://help.sketchup.com/en. Many other online tutorials exist as well. One text on using SketchUp is Daniel Tal’s SketchUp for Site Design: A Guide to Modeling Site Plans, Terrain and Architecture (Wiley Interscience, 2009). SketchUp Pro 8.0 is available on all terminals in the Computer Lab. You may also download a free version of the application on your laptop for use at home or in lab sessions that will be adequate for what is required in this class.

Assignments and Grading

All assignments relate to the analysis and design of the site located on West Rosemary Street between Mitchell and Andrews Lanes in Chapel Hill. The first is a series of three maps demonstrating site analysis (due in class on 30 September). The second is a site concept (due in class 21 October). The final assignment is your final design, including a final site plan, elevations, and perspectives (drawn in SketchUp). A developer has hired you to create a site design for 140,000sf of residential property, 20,000sf of office, 40,000sf of retail, at least 1 acre of public open space, and 120,000sf of parking area (with a maximum of 40,000 below grade) on a 4.4 acre site located between Andrews and Mitchell Lanes on the north side of Rosemary Street in Chapel Hill. Your goal is to propose an arrangement of these uses that provide attractive places for a variety of activities and complement and enhance the surrounding neighborhoods. Students will work in teams, and will present their schemes to the class and guest jurors on 2 December.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- 10% Class participation
- 20% Site analysis assignment
- 20% Concept
- 50% Final project

Contact Information
My office is located at 313 New East and my office hours are Tuesdays, 10-11:30. I can be reached via e-mail at awhittem@email.unc.edu, or by phone at 919-962-4756.

OTHER ACADEMIC BUSINESS

“The Honor Code represents UNC-Chapel Hill students' commitment to maintain an environment in which students respect one another and are able to attain their educational goals. As a student at Carolina, you are entering a community in which integrity matters—integrity in the work you submit, and integrity in the manner in which you treat your fellow Carolina community members.”

http://newstudents.unc.edu/content/view/24/77/

We are committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html. If you have questions it is your responsibility to ask the professor about the Code’s application. All written work, and other projects must be submitted with a signature that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

Missing Class:

Students are permitted to miss class for EXCUSABLE absences only (for details about what an excused absence is, see UNC-Chapel Hill’s attendance policy below). Students are allowed one unexcused absence without any questions from the instructors. If a student has two unexcused absences, their grade will be affected.

Disability: The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities. All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. In the first instance please visit their website http://accessibility.unc.edu, call 919-962-8300 or email accessibility@unc.edu. Please contact ARS as early in the semester as possible.

Resources: Our purpose as professors is to help you to excel in this learning environment. Should you need further assistance beyond the help of the professor, please consult the following on-campus resources:

- The Writing Center: http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/
- Academic Success Program (for students with learning disabilities (LD) and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/
- Learning Center: http://www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/learn.html
SCHEDULE AND READINGS

20 AUG  Course Overview


27 AUG  Site Field Trip

*Guest Speakers: Meg McGurk and Megan Wooley*


Chapel Hill Planning Department and Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership. 2014. *Downtown Vision and Implementation Plan*
http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=24093

http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=12179

http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=729

Town of Chapel Hill, *Northside/ Pine Knolls Community Plan* (2012)
http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=11921

http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=6806
3 SEP  
**Topography and Soils**  
*Sustainable Stormwater Management Tour*


10 SEP  
**Watersheds and Vegetation**  
*Horticulture Tour*


17 SEP  
**Cultural Attributes**  
*Guest Speaker: Hudson Vaughan*


24 SEP  
**Access and Housing**  
*Site Analysis Assignment Due* – 3 maps: (1) a map showing slopes over 10%, (2) another map showing impermeable and other contributing areas, the existing drainage system, tree canopy area and contributing trees, and (3) another showing vehicle and pedestrian traffic and barriers, established districts/behavior settings, views. All three maps should show existing streets, buildings, and site outline, and the first should show 2-foot contour lines.

1 OCT  
**The Program and Conceptual Design**  
*Lab: Sketchup Workshop I*  


8 OCT  
**Elements of Urban Space**  
*Lab: Sketchup Workshop II*  


15 OCT  
**FALL BREAK**

22 OCT  
*NO CLASS*  
*Workshop Session TBD*

29 OCT  
**Urban Spatial Dynamics**  
*Lab: Sketchup Workshop III*

**Concept Map Due** – A map of proposed uses and their arrangement on the site, explained by a key with performance statements, and accompanied by photographs showing public spaces and building types illustrative of what you wish to pursue. At some point over the following two weeks, bring your map to City Hall for staff review.

5 NOV  Form Based Codes and the Crafting of Urban Space  


12 NOV  PROJECT WORK SESSION

19 NOV  PIN-UP REVIEW

3 DEC  FINAL PRESENTATIONS – FINAL PROJECT DUE