Aspects of City Design: Theory and Practice
24 – 28 July 2017
University of Cape Town

Objectives
An internationally respected October 2008 United Nations report rated South African cities as the most inequitable in the world (UN Habitat, ‘State of the World’s Cities 2008/2009’). On the evidence of their existing structure, form and poor performance, they are not simply unjust: they are also inefficient, unsustainable and not very livable for many, particularly the poor majority. Despite some exceptions and not for lack of trying, it is unfortunately inescapable that, overall, the built environment professions and human settlement government policies are not working effectively towards a prosperous and just future for the growing South African urban population.

A major contributing cause of this situation is that there appears to be no shared agreement amongst professionals concerned with the built environment about the nature of the urban problem or about a mental picture of what it is they should be seeking to achieve collectively. Moreover, the gap between government and professional rhetoric on the matter of settlement-making, on the one hand, and the actual practice, on the other, appears to be growing rather than narrowing. Arguably, neither urban policy nor professional practice in contemporary South Africa is sufficiently grounded on ways of approaching settlement design in contexts where poverty and inequality are endemic and where there are significant resource and capacity constraints. Contemporary settlement-making practice continues to be based largely on the concepts, formulations and general mindset of the ‘Brave New World’ of so-called ‘Modern Town Planning’, now about a century old, with origins in Europe and the United States of America, not in a developing-country, post-colonial and post-apartheid context.

Yet, settlements have been made for over 5,000 years in many parts of the world, often for and by poor people. It is time to pause, take stock and chart an appropriate way forward. This short course comprising a total of 40 contact hours spread over five days, has two components that proceed in parallel, in the belief that we as professionals and policy framers can do better than is currently the norm. As the title of the course suggests, the one component is focussed on the evolution of international theory and the history of ideas concerned with city design, while the second is a hands-on set of exercises focussed on the development of improved practice of city design in South Africa. The theory/history component presents an overview of pre-industrial, modernist and post-modernist settlement-making theory and practice internationally, so as to better project the major current issues in contemporary South African settlement-making. The theory and practice components of the course strongly inter-relate and inform each other.

On the basis of a strategic and longer-term view, the course seeks to provide a forum for the articulation of an appropriate settlement-making approach for South Africa at the current time. It is aimed at all built environment professionals — engineers, urban planners, urban designers, architects, landscape architects, transportation planners and environmental and heritage practitioners. It is a course that complements two others to be offered later this year: one previously offered at UCT, entitled ‘Placing Design Central to Urban Decision Making’ attended by many City Councillors and planning officials; and another entitled ‘Urban Design Case Studies’.

This course has been specifically prepared as a stand-alone, one week (Monday to Friday) block-release CPD course aimed at bringing together a wide array of built-environment professionals from the public and the private sectors in South Africa. It can inform the wider debates about settlement-making in our country at the current time. By invitation and with 38 urban planning, landscape architecture, architecture and urban design participants, the course convenor successfully delivered a slightly longer version of this course at Huazong University of Science and Technology (a leading university in Wuhan, China) in 2014 and has been invited to repeat the exercise in May this year. He also delivered such a course in Islamabad, Pakistan, and Windhoek, Namibia in 2015 and again last year. He has been invited by the President of ARCASIA to deliver the course in Manila, the Philippines towards the end of 2017 and in Sri Lanka in early 2018. These facts are simply mentioned here to illustrate that the issues are universal rather than just national and parochial and that we can benefit from international discussions.
Course Content
The course is an exploration into the physical structure and form of cities and how these affect settlement performance for people. Its general purpose is to develop awareness and understanding about the making of cities by rich and poor, as well as by public and private actions and investments. It is aimed at expanding our awareness of the nature of urbanity in difficult times as well as our sense of the possibilities in urban form. We need to get beyond the current impasse and think outside the box. The role and responsibility of the many urbanists, and the public at large, in the making of settlement will be explored.

Course content in the theory/history component includes:
- A rapid, introductory survey of urban developments of our time, attempting to come to an understanding of the major forces which have shaped recent settlements. The dimensions of change and growth. The ruling notions which order growth;
- In contrast to modern cities, some lost qualities of pre-modernist cities;
- Discovering vital relationships as informants to the achievement of meaningful, relevant and, therefore, efficient living environments;
- A more in depth survey of the ruling ideas in settlement-making that emerged as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution. Exploring intentions and the interpretations of intentions. A critical review of the ways of thinking. The dreams explored;
- Postulating fundamental and supportive settlement-making ideas through the organised use of precedent, both local and overseas;
  - Understanding Order, Structure and Process and their relation to Form;
  - Exploring the questions: What orders? What structures?
  - Seeing process as part of context;
- Some observations on the nature and process of design;
- Some fundamental, performance-based Ideas;
  - Balance;
  - Freedom;
  - Community;
  - Diversity;
  - Interdependence;
  - Equity;
- Context: that which gives reality to idea. The concept of warp. Time and Place: the continuum of people and land;
- Return to the problem of number and scale.

Moreover, through a series of exercises which deal with real groups of people and sites, the studiowork/workshop practical component of the course will directly address the structural and spatial underpinnings to livability and good performance of local areas, when also examined in the context of operative larger scales and informants. In these exercises, informing ideas and development processes will be the subject of specific local area development and design proposals. The course is so structured as to facilitate enquiry and debate across theory and practice. It culminates in group/individual development proposals that will be assessed.

Course Lecturer
The convenor and lecturer of the course, Prof. Fabio Todeschini, is an architect, city planner and urban designer, an academic and a practitioner. He will be assisted by another urban designer in the practice component of the course. The intention, however, is to make the course as interactive as possible.
Course Information

Who should attend?
The course will benefit all who are involved in the built environment, whether in the public or private sectors. This includes engineers, land surveyors, architects, landscape architects, urban planners, urban designers, transportation planners and heritage and environmental practitioners. The course is widely applicable and designed to satisfy the multi-disciplinary nature of urban development and urban growth management.

Format
The course is fairly intensive and will comprise five consecutive days with contact from 08:00 to 12:00 and again from 13:00 to 17:00 each day.

Cost
The fee for the total 40-hour course will be R10 000.00. Discounts for staff and students of UCT, and students of other tertiary education institutes are available under certain circumstances.

Certificates
A certificate of attendance will be awarded to all course members who attend a minimum of 80% of the lectures.

CPD Credit Requirements
The course is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa, the Cape Institute for Architecture and the Urban Design Institute of South Africa (Western Cape) and is accredited for the award of CPD points, which are now required for continuing professional registration. The ECSA course code is UCTACD17

Applications and cancellations
In order to ensure a place on the course, applicants should complete and return a signed registration form to the course administrators: Heidi Tait or Sandra Jemaar:
Confirmation of acceptance will be sent on receipt of an application form.
Payment is due one week before the start of a course.
Cancellations must be received one week before the start of a course, or the full course fee will be charged

Venue
TS3A, New Snape Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town.

Date and Time
08h00 – 17h00 each day from Monday 24th – Friday 28 July 2017

Schedule of learning activities:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Aspects of City Design: Theory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 classes in total. Each class is of 45 minutes contact and then 15 minutes break</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 July, Monday</td>
<td>8:00-12:00 (4 classes) + 15:00-17:00 (2 classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 July, Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00-12:00 (4 classes) + 15:00-17:00 (2 classes)</td>
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<td>26 July, Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 July, Friday</td>
<td>8:00-12:00 (4 classes) + 14:00-17:00 (4 classes including final presentations)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 classes in total. Each class is of 45 minutes contact and then 15 minutes break</td>
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<td>24 July, Monday</td>
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