

Course Number: **ARC 4323**
Course Title: **VIA Architectural Design 8**
Term: Spring 2020
Section Number: 0198
Credits: 6
Meeting times: Monday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday 10:15 AM to 1:15 PM
Professors: **Lisa Huang + Peter Sprowls**
University of Florida, Vicenza Institute of Architecture
Contrà SS. Apostoli 51, 36100 Vicenza - Italia
Email: lisahuang@ufl.edu, peter26@ufl.edu
Faculty office: Third floor VIA building, Vicenza, Italy
For office hours refer to the charts posted at the door of the faculty office.

SYLLABUS

Course Description and Role within the Sequence

Design Eight is the final studio of the upper division curriculum. The studio will address the city as context in different ways and at different scales. In Design Eight, we will examine the historic urban forms of the European city and explore strategies for inserting new work into that fabric. Design Eight will focus on questions concerning urban interventions, assemblages, and the role of architecture within the city. Taking advantage of the semester abroad, this particular section uses European cities as its context.

Analysis

Design Eight will continue the trajectory of city analysis started briefly in lower division and developed in Design 6 and 7. The role of analysis in the course is twofold. First, students must document the existing conditions in a dense European city and analyze specific phenomena as precedents for their proposals. This analysis is achieved primarily through direct observation and documentation, supplemented with the study of maps, texts, and aerial and ground photography. After the initial phase of documentation, the analysis develops through research into the history and culture of a built context in order to develop a programmatic narrative.

Design

We will focus on the development of both the building and the public space in our design proposals. This will include an understanding of the building's spatial contribution to the public realm as well as the development and detailing of the major interior spaces of the intervention. The students will explore the organization of space and the connection between mass, skin, internal space and the public and semi-public areas. Since this is the last semester of your undergraduate education, you should have skills in many different kinds of working methods and you should have a good idea of your own design process.

Sources and Influences

The materials brought to this course by both the faculty and the students can have a significant impact on the direction the course will take. There are numerous possible sources for architectural readings, historical readings, web sites, cinema, and art. The VIA library has abundant relevant material for our European studies which could be useful in the development of your projects. The Analytical Sketching and MM2 courses will also provide overlaps into your design process and research.

Sequence and Schedule

There will be two projects during this semester abroad:

Project 1 [5 weeks]

Week 1-2: Project 1a – Project is based in Venezia
Week 3: Barcelona trip
Week 4-6: Project 1b

Week 7-8: Rome and Spring Break

Project 2 [6 weeks]

Week 9: Project 2a – Project is based in the Veneto Region
Week 10: Bellinzona, Bregenz, Vals trip
Week 11-15: Project 2b

The Studio System

As in Gainesville, the structure of studio courses is substantially different from a lecture format, more closely approximating a lab class or workshop. The basic assumption is that the student learns as much from fellow students as from professors. Your design studio will consist of a group between 10 and 25 students. Exercises and discussions will involve your active participation both in and outside of the structured class time. The process is a communal one, involving redundant sequences of doing, looking, articulating, clarifying, and doing again. You must learn to trust one another, and value each other's input in the development of your work.

Critiques

From time to time at the end of a project, or at a critical moment of the work Reviews and/or Critiques are scheduled. These are public presentations of the work and provide a forum for its discussion. Usually an external critic - or several - are brought in to provide a fresh viewpoint and to stimulate discussion. These sessions are usually more formal than other studio sessions and should be taken quite seriously. Critics come in on their own time and expend a serious level of energy in trying to understand your endeavors and give you good feedback. You should think of your presentation not as a moment of judgment, but as an opportunity to get input on implications and possible directions for development. The critiques of your fellow students will also be essential to your education as a designer.

Room Use

Since many students are working in the same room it is essential that you work quietly and unobtrusively, that you respect your fellow student's work, and that you clean up after you are finished. Please note that spray painting anywhere on the VIA grounds is prohibited.

Safety

Please use every precaution in the studio to ensure your own safety and the safety of others who are using the space. Please note that power tools are prohibited in the studio.

Policy on Retaining Work

Please note that the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning policies state that students' work may be retained indefinitely for academic purposes. You should be prepared for the instructor to ask that it be exhibited and/or photographed during or after the term. Having your work retained for photography and/or exhibition is evidence of its quality and value to the school. You will always be able to either retrieve your original work or retrieve it temporarily to make copies/photograph it for your own personal purposes.

Attendance

Attendance and participation at all studio sessions and reviews is mandatory. There is no possibility to make up a missed studio session. Notes will be useless, and although a long conversation with a fellow student will help you begin to figure out what to do to prepare for the next session, it can never make up the learning. A session with your professor may or may not be possible and cannot duplicate the collective conversation. As a result, our policy on attendance is extremely strict:

ANY absence must be explained, either by 1) contacting your faculty by email, 2) sending a note to your professor, or 3) calling the office (or faculty member's VIA mobile number). **THREE ABSENCES CAN CONSTITUTE AN AUTOMATIC DROP FROM THE COURSE OR A FAILING GRADE.** Chronic absences and/or tardiness will have a negative impact on your grade. If you must miss class, it is up to you to get the assignments and notes from your classmates. In the event of serious illness, injury, family emergency, or personal crisis, arrangements can be made for attendance, missed exams or work. On this point, it is important for you to contact your instructor regarding your particular circumstances as soon as possible.

It is never permissible to miss a Critique, nor is it permissible to be late or to leave early. It will be considered a direct insult to your fellow classmates and the invited critics.

Performance + Grading

There are no tests in Design. There are also no right or wrong answers per se. You will not be taking in information over the course of the term and regurgitating it in another form. You will begin as you will go on - by making things over and over and over. Each time you will take on new questions or the same questions at another level of sophistication. Therefore, there is no single answer for which we are looking. We will give you feedback on the directions you have taken, suggestions for further work, and assess the architectural implications of your projects.

Our goals for you are:

- 1) To have at your fingertips a thousand fruitful ways to approach any problem.
- 2) To learn to critique yourselves effectively.

What we ask from you is a concerted effort, an innovative take on the problem, constructions that raise architectural issues, and, most importantly, for you to challenge yourself and be constantly willing to continue to develop a scheme. Grades will be assigned as much on dedication and improvement as on talent - if you enter the course gifted and sit on your skill all term, you will not get an A.

Grades will be assigned as much on dedication and improvement as on talent. We evaluate your performance in terms of the following: Quality, Completeness, Clarity, Rigor, and Contribution to the Discourse.

“Quality” should be more or less self-explanatory, as is “Completeness.” “Clarity” refers to the precision of the marks you make, the words you use, and the proximities and/or variances between the constructions and words. “Rigor” refers to serious effort, and the willingness to work through an iterative process to reach solutions. Finally, “Contribution to the Discourse” refers to your participation in the discussions in class, and in a broader sense, to your meaningful contributions to the larger field of architecture.

Final grades will reflect the University of Florida policies for assigning grade points, which can be found at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> as the following scale, grade point equivalent, and numeric score demonstrate.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Every effort will be made to provide timely and appropriate feedback for your performance. If you have questions about your grade, you may schedule a conference to review your scores, attendance, and performance. Final grades will reflect the University of Florida policies for assigning grade points, which can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. An incomplete grade may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade only in cases of extreme extenuating circumstances. Note that as this is a required course, you will not be allowed to graduate without completing the course with a passing grade.

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida maintains a student honor code regarding cheating and use of copyrighted materials produced by others. Specific policies can be found at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student who submits plagiarized work will receive a failing grade for the course and be subjected to further disciplinary action as outlined in the student honor code.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students must contact the professor within the first 2 weeks of the semester to discuss needed accommodations.

Counseling

Although you will be studying in Vicenza this semester, you remain a student of the University of Florida and continue to have access to all university counseling resources. For the University Counseling Center, call 352-392-1575 or go to <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>. For the Career Resource Center, call 352-392-1601 or go to <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Policy on Retaining Work

Please note that the University of Florida, College of Design, Construction, and Planning policy states that student's work may be retained indefinitely for academic purposes. You should be prepared for the instructor to ask that it be exhibited or photographed during or after the term. Having your work retained for photography or exhibition is evidence of its quality and value to the School. Not to worry, you will be able either to retrieve your original work or retrieve it temporarily to make copies or photograph it for your own personal purposes.

Changes and Revisions to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be relayed during regular class hours.

Required Textbooks

None. We will provide readings as appropriate for the projects. In addition, there are in the VIA library books in reserve for your use.

Recommended Readings in preparation for the school trips:

Transforming Barcelona, edited by Tim Marshall

Barcelona, The Urban Evolution of a Compact City, Joan Busquets

Urban Change and the European Left, Tales from the New Barcelona, Donald McNeill

Building Barcelona, A Second Renaissance, Peter Rowe

Barcelona, by Robert Hughes

Watermark, Joseph Brodsky (Venice)

You will no doubt be traveling to many European cities on your own. Here are good introductory and serious books that multiply your understanding of the relations between architecture and history.

For Paris: *Seven Ages of Paris*, Alistair Horne

For Berlin: *Berlin*, David Clay Large

For London: *London, The Biography*, Peter Ackroyd

For Rome: *Rome from the Ground up*, James McGregor

For Florence: *Florence a Portrait*, Michael Levey.