

# Making Place:

Placemaking and the Role of the Almighty Detail

Graduate and Upper Division Undergraduate Seminar

ARC 6912 + ARC 4930

Monday 2:00 – 5:00



In pure architecture the smallest detail should have a meaning or serve a purpose.

-Augustus W. N. Pugin

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## Course Description

Let's go on a journey around the world and across time in order to look at the world we have built and continue to construct around us every day. The *Places* we visit and the *Spaces* we use as human beings shape our perceptions in powerful and sometimes inconceivable ways. They impact our day-to-day experiences, and express our ultimate comprehension of what it means to *Dwell* between the Earth and sky.

Since the dawn of time, our species' have labored to create shelter from the elements, predatorial creatures, and hostile neighbors. Beginning with the found space of a cave and progressing slowly into constructed analogous caves of our own making, humankind has found inspiration in nature. Through the evolutionary fluke of increased intellect, our forebears observed, conceived, and invented ways of connecting found objects together - thus giving birth to *design*.

Making Place will think about the unique qualities that make certain places and spaces – well, “sacred” or one of a kind... AND how an inventory and understanding of what makes them unique (or how they evolved to be so) can be used to create a built THING or joint or detail of a thing.... The seminar posits that a deep understanding and dwelling within a sacred space, culture, or heritage, can yield – with care and respect – an architectural response that simply belongs. We will examine significant places and learn to craft our own detailed moment, build it, and examine it at full scale.

## Course Format

Course format will consist seminar, topical readings, assigned short position essays (based upon lectures and discussions) and assessments. Lecture will consist of works of sublime creativity acts from across time and around the world. We will discuss human's responses to cultural valuation and identity, sustainability through climate, population growth, and energy conservation. These issues will be expanded through the discussion of integrative design methodologies that actively mediate geopolitical challenges through spatial and built responses that extend beyond public policy.

In addition to primary faculty, guest lecturers will be invited to present their own expertise in order to discuss the ramifications of critical place-making decisions on the environment from the global to the immediate scale of the human body.

### **Texts**

All texts and media will be available in Canvas (elearning).

**UF Grading Policy:** Information on UF's grading policy can be found at the following location:  
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

### **Grading Criteria**

200 pts	Case Study Research and Analysis
100 pts	Weekly Writing
100 pts	Design Proposal Schematic Phase
100 pts	Design Development and Documentation
100 pts	Construction Documentation
300 pts	Final Constructed Detail
100 pts	Book

### **Grading Scale**

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

**Critical Course Engagement:** You are expected to take part in class and online discussions, answer posed questions, provide meaningful insight into class material, and be present for class. Course engagement will be assessed with routine short answer quiz questions posed at the start of class at multiple points of the semester.

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

**Attendance and In-Class Experience :** Attendance and engagement during class time are expected. Learning in this course happens over time spent engaging with the texts, through attentiveness and thoughtfulness during lectures, and with participation in class activities and discussion. Only those absences deemed excused according to [UF policy](#), including university-sponsored events such as

athletics and band, (documented) illness, and religious holidays will be eligible for arrangements such as making up work. When you know ahead of time that you will miss class (such as for a university-sponsored event, religious holiday, or scheduled health event), you must contact the instructor ahead of time and make arrangements for making up any missed work. Tardiness disrupts the class.

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’”

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. *If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors.*

UF’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For a discussion of how to avoid plagiarism, consult *Misuse of Sources* on the course web site. *If you have any questions, please ask an instructor.* An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers. In summary, this means a lot to me, and will be enforced.

**Students with Special Needs and Accommodations:** Students with special physical needs and 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. All attempts to provide an equal learning environment for all will be made.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **COVID-19 Practices**

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
  - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need

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immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
  - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.