

City / Nature for Urban Resilience

GREENER BELLTOWN : BLUER SOUND

Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2017 [Larch 501]

Instructor: Professor Nancy Rottle (LA)
Teaching Assistant: Tatyana Vashchenko (LA)
With Master Teacher Louise Grassov, Schulze + Grassov



"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual satisfaction." – E. O. Wilson

"We use Nature to solve problems while improving genuine life quality for all. We use Nature's processes and principles rather than its image." – Kristoffer Holm Pedersen, Head of Communications SLA

"What kind of city do you want? How will your city use climate imperatives to create urbanism, public space and architecture?" – Peter Honneke, Landscape Architect COBE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

How can the infusion of a healthy “Nature,” and approaches that integrate multi-functional natural processes, help to create vibrant, healthful, climate-change resilient urban districts while also helping to restore downstream environments? As a case example, how might Seattle’s Belltown neighborhood integrate green infrastructure to **eliminate combined sewer overflows into Elliott Bay**, in ways that also help to **regenerate a healthy urban nature** and equitably provide the **renewing benefits that contact with nature can afford**? How can such an integrative design approach help to create and sustain a **democratic, just, public life**, and foster a **vibrant, creative urban neighborhood culture**?

Inspired by our experiences of Copenhagen’s and Malmo’s planning policies and design trials for sustainable and climate resilient cities, we will work with the Seattle 2030 District and the Belltown Community to begin to answer these questions. We will explore **district planning frameworks** that could be useful in integrating these questions into their planning processes. We will develop **design ideas and typologies** to inspire retrofit of streets, urban spaces and buildings that employ natural processes to **create a more liveable district, while solving the basin’s stormwater issues, and future City water and wastewater demands**. We will have the unique opportunity to work directly with people engaged in ongoing initiatives for Belltown: with a diverse array of **community stakeholders and professionals** who have been engaged in neighborhood planning processes over the last many months and years, and with **urban habitat and green stormwater proponents**; with **Seattle Public Utilities** at the beginning of their process investigating solutions to the basin’s combined sewer overflows; and with the **2030 District’s** visionary goals and progress for reducing peak stormwater discharge and potable water use.

Guided by principles developed by Gehl Architects, and their offspring of Schulze + Grassov, we will devise approaches to cultivate and enrich public life -- both moving through, and staying in, the public realm of streets, plazas, parks and leftover spaces of this site. Additionally, we will work at district, site and detail scales to use urban design to address climate change impacts, through:

- exploring opportunities to **insert urban nature for biodiversity resilience and human health**
- addressing social and cultural needs and amenities to **cultivate social resilience**; and
- artfully integrating **water into the cityscape for hydraulic performance, urban nature, and human delight**.

During the term, our Master Studio will benefit from the involvement of Louise Grassov, formerly with Gehl Architects and now with her own firm, Schulze + Grassov. Throughout the quarter, we’ll build on the Copenhagen study tour by referencing examples from our travels and employing and expanding on the public life / public space principles we learned about at those firms, from Copenhagen’s integrative approach to climate adaptation, and from Malmo’s, SLA’s, and other firms’ approaches to cultivating a biodiverse “nature” in the city. Students enrolled in a linked seminar will simultaneously examine perception, theories and practices related to integration of nature in dense urban environments.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- to practice site and district analysis methods
- to explore strategies for creating a democratic public realm that is ecological, resilient, regenerative, playful and just;

- to explore, implement and expand on Gehl Architects' urban design concepts and methods to promote a lively urban realm;
- to develop and apply ecological infrastructural planning and design strategies for urban biodiversity and green infrastructure that address the challenge of climate change in Seattle;
- to practice the creative act of developing and transforming program ideas into integrated, responsive designed form;
- to apply evaluation metrics to anticipate actual social and environmental performance of design interventions;
- to develop clear and compelling graphic and verbal communication skills;
- to practice working effectively in interdisciplinary teams;
- to practice working at all scales, using both large and small scales simultaneously to each inform the other.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the culmination of the studio, students will:

- be facile with implementing recognized public space planning principles and design criteria
- be aware of climate change impacts to urban populations, and a range of alternatives for addressing such impacts
- have practiced applying artful urban nature and water management strategies to the urban realm
- have advanced personal planning, design and design communication skills
- have increased insight and skill for working in teams

STUDIO PROCESS and EXPECTATIONS

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 to 5:20 for *group presentations, discussions, field trips, working time and team desk critiques*. Occasionally we'll go beyond these times for special events and work times. This term you will primarily work in groups on district inventory and analysis, and on conceptual district and schematic site planning/design level endeavors. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled class time, and to participate as a full member in your teamwork. When Louise Grassov is scheduled to be in town, we expect you to be in studio at all times, and plan on slightly longer days and scheduled sessions outside of class time to best make use of her limited time with us (recognizing conflicting work and school commitments). This will likely require meeting on Tuesdays and Thursday for group and individual desk crits, and on the Friday holiday when Louise will be here.

You are highly encouraged to continue your sketchbook from Copenhagen (or start a new one) that documents your research and design explorations. Consider including your research and design process, notes from readings, class discussions and community meetings, solutions seen, heard, and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

The required book for the term is Jan Gehl's most recent, *Cities for People*, which has been ordered from the *UW Bookstore*. An optional text has also been ordered: *Ecological Design* (Rottle and Yocom). A list of resources will be provided, many of which will be on Reserve in the CBE Library and on-line. Over the term we'll compile a studio library to support your work, and you are encouraged to share new resources with each other as you discover them.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://courses.be.uw.edu/SDMasterStudio/>

COURSE SHARE SPACE:

The share space for our course is on Google Drive. The course folder is **2017 LArch 501**. Google Drive is very user friendly. For anyone interested in becoming more familiar with how Google Drive works feel free to avail yourselves of the numerous tutorials online or approach Tatyana with specific questions. Here's a good place to start: <https://support.google.com/drive/?hl=en#topic=14940>.

You will need to have your own Google Drive account in order to access the class files. UW administers its mail and file sharing through Google so you can access a Drive account that way, or if you already have a Gmail account we can share the files with you there. The 2017 LArch 501 folder was shared with everyone's preferred email addresses from the study tour, but if you prefer another Gmail address simply request an invitation.

The 2017 LArch 501 folder will be shared with all students, with some files editable and others not. Since everything that you share could potentially be edited/removed/otherwise changed by other members of the group, **do not store your original files on the class Drive**. Please share copies (exact duplicates) of your work and store the original files elsewhere for safekeeping. We will happily advise on storage systems if anyone would like help safely and conveniently storing their files. This is very important to note: **once you have added the class Drive folder to your personal Google Drive everything you do in that folder affects the rest of the class** (editing and removing files, etc.).

For photos and imagery, Tatyana has shared instructions for uploading to the class **Flickr** account. Each individual should upload photos to the **scandesign_masterstudio_2017** Flickr Account (password: **PublicSpace2017**) and create an album titled: "<your name>_CPH_2017". Please see the album Tatyana created as an example. When you select which photos you'd like to upload to Flickr through the "Camera Roll" tool, you can edit each image to add tags. Please refer to "Assignment 02: Photo Bank" for instructions for how to tag your images. Feel free to share scans of sketchbook pages if you like. We will use these photos for publications, presentations as well as precedent imagery for your studio projects.

STUDIO EVALUATION (C/NC)

Evaluation will be both from guest reviewers and faculty throughout the quarter, with written comments provided at the end of the term. We may also elect to conduct peer evaluations for group work.

Required at the end of term:

- **Digital upload of your project files and book pages, including scans of your process work**
- **Your final printed posters**
- **Printouts of your posters in reduced format (e.g. 11 x 17 or 8.5 x 11)**
- **Final versions of book pages to be published (precedents, analysis, etc.)**
- **Final posters and process work uploaded to the Landscape Architecture archives**

RESOURCES: Available on the 2017 LArch 501 Google Drive [Study Tour/Resources/Presentations] or online at specified link:

[Study Tour/Resources/Presentations]

Gehl:

- The City as Meeting Place (Lars Gemzøe)

- Copenhagen Planning 1167-2017 (Lars Gemzøe)
- Embrace the Water (Helle Søholt)
- Gehl Institute (Shin-pei Tsay)
- Human Senses and Scale + Quality Criteria
- Resources and Presentation from Gehl Institute: <https://gehl.institute.org/bookshelf/>

Schulze + Grassov

- Parameters for Public Space – Presentation + Guides

City of Copenhagen

- Co-Creation Copenhagen (pdf)
- Urban Nature in Copenhagen (pdf)
- Soft Edge Diagrams for Nordhavn (pdf)
- Copenhagen Cloudburst Plan (add url)

SLA

- Urban Nature and Climate Adaptation <http://www.sla.dk/en/about-us/publications/climateadaptationcitynature/> + hard copy
- SLA Presentation (Kristoffer Holm Pedersen)

COBE:

- Our Urban Living Room (Rune Boserup)

Ramboll Water:

- Ramboll Presentation (Christian Nyerup Nielsen)

[Studio/Resources]- each of the following folders contain a variety of resources (presentations, images, articles, tech memos, etc.) to which you can contribute throughout the quarter.

- Battery Street Tunnel
- Belltown Affiliate Partners
- Belltown Background/History
- Community Plans
- Growing Vine Street
- Stormwater Remediation
- Tools
- Waterfront Project

CAD & GIS files [Resources/Base Files]:

- City of Seattle Open Data Portal: <https://data.seattle.gov/>
- Washington State Geospatial Data Archive/ City of Seattle Data: <https://wagda.lib.washington.edu>
- GIS Files provided by Belltown affiliate partner organizations

Hard copies of the following will be available in the studio for your use during the quarter (ALL MATERIALS ARE TO BE RETURNED):

- *Parameters for Public Spaces in Copenhagen*. Schulze + Grassov, January 2015
- *Copenhagen Climate Change Adaptation and Investment Statement, Part 1*. October 2015. http://kk.sites.itera.dk/apps/kk_pub2/pdf/1499_bUxCjgovgE.pdf
- *Copenhagen Climate Change Adaptation and Investment Statement, Part 2*, October 2015. Hard copy in studio, pdf at: http://kk.sites.itera.dk/apps/kk_pub2/pdf/1500_lxcZZYkCfR.pdf
- "Climate Change and Place," *Places Journal*. 2007. Rottle and Alberti, Eds.
- *Porous Public Space: People + Rainwater + Cities*. UW Green Futures Lab.

Additionally, see separate list of books, articles and websites. We will continue to build the resources and references in the Drive and in hard copy in the studio library – please contribute!