



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University

# Built Environment

PLAN7143  
Urban Design



Course Outline – Term 3, 2020

## Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

## 1. COURSE STAFF

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## 2. COURSE DETAILS

<b>Credit Points</b>	6 units of credit (uoc)
<b>Workload</b>	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
<b>Teaching Times and Location</b>	Find details in timetable <a href="http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au">http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au</a>

## Description

Urban design as a field of activity is concerned with the four-dimensional form and functioning of the public realm. It is both a process and a product and is often regarded as the integrative force that straddles and connects the more traditional built environment disciplines: urban design aims to reunite the partnership between planning and design to help improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment. This course provides an introduction to urban design concepts and methodologies in relation to current planning practice. Starting from an appreciation of the fundamentals of design, topics include site investigations, defining urban structure, enhancing the public realm, understanding building typologies, and controlling built form. Specific aims of the course include developing an awareness of the scope of urban design projects, an appreciation of the physical structure of places, an understanding of shaping built form, a familiarity with a range of building typologies, and an appreciation of current urban design issues and debates. Particular skills to be reviewed include site analysis methodology, establishing robust planning and design principles, mapping and spatial understanding, design review criteria and mechanisms of development control.

## Aims

- To prepare students with core skills – both conceptual and practical – to confidently deliver better urban environments. Particular skills to be reviewed include site analysis methodology, establishing robust planning and design principles, mapping and spatial understanding, design review criteria and mechanisms of development control.
- To establish a more robust introductory level to Urban Design, with a particular view to preparing students who are interested in following an urban design specialist pathway in conjunction with the Master of Urban Development and Design.
- To introduce key urban design concepts and methodologies in relation to current planning practice, including the fundamentals of design, site investigations, defining urban structure, enhancing the public realm, and controlling built form.
- To develop an awareness of the scope of urban design projects, an appreciation of the physical structure of places, an understanding of shaping built form, a familiarity with a range of building typologies, and an appreciation of current urban design issues and debates.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Create diagrams that clearly and accurately convey urban design information.
2. Think critically about the urban design of our cities and appreciate the ways in which the urban design of a place can influence our experience of it.
3. Understand the importance of facilitating good urban design outcomes in planning activity.
4. Prepare and propose justifiable urban design visions.
5. Develop applied skills in the use of computer-based urban design packages.
6. Work collaboratively in addressing real-world problems through urban design.

## 3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Tutorial - Discussion	10%	3, 6
2. Report - Urban Design Journal	30%	2, 3
3. Report - Urban Design Skills Portfolio	30%	1, 5
4. Project - Urban Design Studio Presentation	30%	1, 2, 4, 5, 6

#### **4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK**

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.