|Urban Design 2|

metropolitan fragments:

infrastructure, landscape and architecture

Quick start guide of Urban Design 2, 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree in Architecture, School of Architecture (ETSAG), University of Granada (UGR), Academic Course 2024-2025.

Teaching staff:
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Timetable:
3A group A (Room T1): Monday 10:30-14:30h
3B groups B (Room T1) and C (Room T2): Tuesday 10:30-14:30h
3C groups D (Room T1) and E (Room T2 -English teaching group-): Tuesday 15:30-19:30h

Academic tutorials would be provided upon request

|Presentation|

This subject would provide students with theoretical and practical bases to support their professional performance as architect in spatial planning and urban project or design, which would be carried out through the integration of knowledge that architecture student should have about urban studies of different environments and scales.

Methodologically, the subject involves case studies, high-level graphic representation, working in small groups of students, and tutor-student guidance as essential teaching-learning items. Planning and urban design concepts and contents would be shown based on terms such as morphology, typology, infrastructure, public space, composition, ecology, landscape and networks. Criteria and tools for designing housing urban fragments would be provided, focusing mainly on project issues, on the way of distributing land uses and fitting them in reasonable urban forms as fragments conducted by mobility, ecology and functionality rules.

Academic training in the knowledge of social needs, quality of live, urban habitability and basic housing programmes is considered a priority with the aim of achieving knowledge and basic skills to understand and project a sustainable urban environment. With the above, a goal is to close a teaching stage that began in the first semester of the course with the subject Urban Design 1, which would be continued with Urban Design 2 by deepening the knowledge of acquired concepts, complementing as well as completing initial basic contents and skills. The subject would have two main knowledge blocks: Theoretical fundaments (lessons) and practical workshop (project).

I. Theoretical fundaments

They involve a programme of basic lectures to be given by the teaching staff of the subject. They are: (a) face-to-face theoretical lessons for students, which help them for the practical workshop where a project as a practical task must be developed in order to qualify for the subject pass mark; and (b) a non-

face-to-face work in which students should both reflect and research on the theoretical contents shown and deepen their relationship with the practical task of the subject (project). The lectures can support the project for sure. Attentive attendance is highly recommended.

Lessons

They consist of short lectures by which general and specific arguments would be presented on the weekly theme that can support the project development. Voluntary debate on their contents and moderated by the lecturer would be opened for clarifying them.

It should be emphasised once again that these lectures should be understood as an aid or introduction to several issues regarding the project as practical workshop work. Sometimes, this relationship would be more direct. However, at others it would be indirect, but in any case it does not replace the personal research work the student should carry out to deepen their project and their general training. It is up to the student to make a continuous effort to link theory, research and practice, which would be done under the teaching staff guidance.

As a guideline, see below the (tentatively) programmed lectures grouped by work submissions and theoretical lines (L1, L2, Ln), including a short description on what they mean, and to be given according to the calendar you can find out at the end of this document.

Titled figures of the lectures are available in: http://www.doyoucity.com/proyectos/tema/323

SITUATION

L1 Urban growth forms

L1a Territorial stories
The cartographic representation of the geographical framework of an urban area is a key to understand the specific conditions of both its location and growth process. It is an essential pre-intervention drawing.

L1b Cartography, ideas and land form
In the first representations of the land where we are going to project, or in the schematization of a project by a simple outline to be explained, the choice of what is relevant to be drawn and what is not to be removed is a key factor.

L1c Urbanization, Parcelling and Building (UPE)
The form of any urban fragment can be disaggregated into its urbanization elements (e.g. roads, paths, urban infrastructures), parcelling (assigned land) and building (architectural typologies). The summary of the urban form is the layout of its open spaces (e.g. streets, squares, parks).

L1d Forms and types of urban growth
UPE layers are closely related to each other to compose the urban form. Density, as an attribute it, can support different types of relationship between these layers. In turn, the urban forms can relate to each other and make the city grow in different ways.

MASTERPLAN

L2 The urban composition theory

L2a Simultaneous multiscalarity

When we project in an urban area we need to work simultaneously at every scale: territorial, intermediate and architectural.

L2b Geometries on the land

Strategic, compositional and environmental considerations are provided about the Masterplan as an instrument for implementation, integration and coherence of urban elements and land uses in the territory.

L2c Layers

The territory we inhabit can be read as a succession of layers that have been sedimented one on top of the other throughout history and that provide it with the required complexity for living. New projects are new added layers and their desired complexity would be supported in the best of cases by new systems of layers that can be projected independently.

L3 Mobility

L3a Architecture for movement

The speed of contemporary connection has changed the grain and form of the city, although we sometimes forget that to keep or modify the space-time can be the aim of a project.

L3b 5-10-30'

Distances are no longer measured in length but in time. There are patterns and standards of time that make the city friendlier and more liveable.

L3c Transport oriented development (TOD)

It consists of designing intermediate scale urban forms and project strategies around public transport nodes considering both pedestrian accessibility and environmental comfort.

L4 Connection VS Relation

L4a Connection-disconnection

Layouts have a greater durability than architectural monuments and therefore require careful design. Connection is not the same as relation. The latter is a qualification of the former. Even disconnection often facilitates relation.

L4b Structures and Substructures

Large-scale planning required the modulation and structuring of projects by scales. The higher the speeds, the more the infrastructures became the architecture of the urban grids.

PROJECT

L5 The architecture of the land

L5a Re-composition

Urban-architectural project strategies consisting of the recovery and revitalisation of obsolete architecture and/or urban areas based on compositional criteria.

L5b Friendly infrastructures

Within the city, projects though for very different speeds coexist and have a great impact on their size. Despite the above, they have to share the same physical space.

L6 The nearby city

L6a Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPs)

Reference to the POPs as a strategy of urban intervention or renovation focused on public space as a relational element.

L6b Elements of housing composition

Miscellany of some of the best housing projects throughout the history of urban planning and architecture.

L7 Housing fragments

L7a Intermediate scale projects

Through some paradigmatic projects and using comparative analyses, different types and sizes of intermediate composition by UPE layers will be shown.

L7b Territorial scale projects

Sometimes architecture takes on territorial scale roles. This requires control over all scales as well as over speeds and integration of the parameters set by the landscape, the infrastructures and the architecture itself so that the result to be plausible.

II. Practical workshop

The class hours following the lectures would be devoted to workshop work on the subject project by steps, from the territorial to the architectural scale, which can be developed by small group of 2-3 students. In the workshop, the work on paper and working models would be advanced and discussed face-to-face. Important: Works displayed on the computer will not be supervised. The supervision sessions may be carried out collectively in class.

The subject is designed as a continuous assessment, so that every project step submission would be presented in class in order to be evaluated and according to the dates set in the calendar. This condition is mandatory to pass the subject. Once each work have been shown in class and evaluated by the teaching staff, students will keep it until the end of the course, so that it will be available in case it is required again.

The proposed face-to-face supervision of the work by the teaching staff in the workshop is of absolute importance for the student learning. Thus, the student's continuous commitment to this dynamic will be equally important in order to pass the subject.

For the follow-up of the work in the workshop it is also quite important that students bring with them plenty of drawn or printed materials (e.g. plans, drawings, outlines) and/or working models. No supervision will be made to the work if students do not bring enough work material with them.

|**Project**|

The subject work or project is divided into three steps or work submissions (Situation, Masterplan and Project), which form part of a single project to be developed from the first day of the course to the last. The aim is for the student to go through all the steps and scales involved, following a complete exercise of professional activity. Each submission is associated with a piece of work by the student, which must suit the proposed statement in each case, as well as be presented and submitted according to the dates set out in the calendar. The project topic is introduced as follows.

METROPOLITAN FRAGMENTS: INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURE

Most of our cities and their metropolitan environments have grown more in 3 or 4 decades than in all their centuries of history. From cohabiting in the crowded *urbis*, made up of streets, squares and orderly urban extensions, many people have been chosen to live in *suburbia*, made up of less canonical fragments of habitation by low-density housing areas among patches of landscape and other land uses (e.g. industrial, agricultural, logistical) that are accessible exclusively by road.

This fast growth has almost always taken place in a disorganised, even chaotic manner. One only has to look out of the car window when living the central city to see how it loses intensity and beauty as one drives away from it. Or is it a neo-beauty that we do not know how to love yet? It is true that in the metropolitan area versus the historic city the speed of travelling is faster, the land rents are lower, the air is cleaner and the views are great; a desired decongestion. But it is no less true that there is a lack of urbanity and density "injections" in this close but still vague territory, of collective spaces, in order to meet more people and live in a more vibrant way.

Against this type of growth, the sustainable urban future involves (almost) do not urbanizing, reurbanizing and deurbanizing processes by: addressing each urban fragment tactically from the project, increasing the intensity of some places as well as their density, adding building corners, transforming the road into a street functionally and semantically, removing excess roads to build more domestic relationships, linking architecture, infrastructure and landscape compositionally where appropriate, improving continuity between elements of value (ecological, social, economic) and developing a "land project" as B. Secchi understands that the street should be in this *terrain vague* that the periphery is.

THE PROJECT SITE

The site chosen for the course project development is located in the southwest part of the metropolitan area of Granada. Concretely, it is situated within the geographical framework delimited by the highway second ring road of Granada, the urban edges of towns Las Gabias, Cúllar Vega and Churriana de la Vega, and the Dílar River. It is a metropolitan zone under pressure due to the proximity of such towns and other urbanized areas, as if they were large "floating" urban fragments on the natural space of the Granada plain which may be understood as a large metropolitan agricultural park.

Also, this zone is interfered by road infrastructure among which it is worth highlighting the decision by territorial planning to provide this zone with a main road (VAU-5) connecting the two highways of the metropolitan area. Likewise, a new "by-pass" is planned at the edge of contact between towns of Las Gabias and Híjar that may enclose an existing linear urban park located at the border of the latter and with nice views over the nearby landscape.

However, at the same time, in this zone there are patches with high landscape and agricultural value, as well as great expectations for the upcoming arrival of the southern extension of the Granada metro to Churriana de la Vega and Las Gabias, firstly centrally and finally in a perimeter way. In this context, some possible strategic lines of the project development may be:

- Rethinking the layout of the VAU-5 as well as its section in a more integrated way with the landscape and even as a possible support element for new urban growth as "road architecture".
- Projecting an urban growth in the vicinity of some new metro stop as a "station neighbourhood" linked to the town.
- Solving the encounter between city, infrastructure and landscape by proposing novel formal solutions as "built facades facing the park" at the contact perimeter of urban edge with natural space.
- Fitting a new urban fragment into some opportunity space of the existing urbanization as an "urban prosthesis" improving existing conditions of the elements to which it adheres and with which it may interacts.
- Reversing the obsolescence of some metropolitan places of the project site though scattered interventions as projected "urban fillings" into such existing obsoleted areas and by increasing their relational capital (social, ecological).
- Others, or possible combinations of the above.

|**Work submissions**|

Work submissions will be made in person at the workshop and on the dates indicated in the course timetable or calendar. They will also be submitted digitally on the course website (http://www.doyoucity.com/proyectos/49) throughout the submission day. Important: If you do not submit your work on the date and in the way indicated, you will not be able to pass the subject without taking the ordinary (June) and/or the extraordinary exam call (July). You can only apply to increase your subject mark by taking the ordinary exam call (June).

As a cartographic basis for supporting work drawings, each group of students would look for updated DWG, PDF or similar files. It is also possible to work by redrawing on available historical or updated ortophotos of the project site. For example, you can view and download cartography from REDIAM (Andalusian Environmental Information Network) and/or from the IECA (Andalusian Institute of Statistics and Cartography).

Links of interest regarding the above:

- *https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal/acceso-rediam*
- *https://portalrediam.cica.es/VisorRediam*
- *https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/institutodeestadisticaycartografia/bcadescargas/*

Work submissions are defined below. Please note that the work scales shown are indicative. In other words, each group of students would choose the scale that best suits its work.

1. Situation

The aim of this first project step is to get to know and interpret the project site by drawing a "window" (A1 format) including this site as well as the territorial context (as geographical framework) in which it is located. This territorial window should be represented according to the most relevant orientation to the work of the student group.

The goal is to draw a specific "story" of the chosen (and turned) territory window rather than the draw of everything we can find there. To this end, it would be useful to draw some of the natural and/or anthropic elements that best characterise the territory window (e.g. layouts, forms, typologies, thresholds, topographies, relationships, links, barriers, continuities, vectors, etc.) and omitting the less

relevant information. Decisions about what to draw, or not to draw, would be a key factor to take into account.

Work submission: An A1 format as a "window" of the project site territory according to the chosen strategic line. Window orientation has to be decided by each student group. E: 1/5.000, 1/10.000.

2. Masterplan

It consists of a strategic proposal for the general planning of the window chosen in the previous project step (Situation) including decisions on layouts (roads, pedestrian, cycle lanes and other transport infrastructure), land uses (e.g. green areas, facilities, housing) and singular architectures, so that the outcome becomes an integrated, differentiated and coherent planned whole.

Work submission: An A1 format with a plan drawing of the Masterplan proposal. E: 1/5.000, 1/10.000.

3. Project (as the third and last part of the whole subject project)

The first thing to be done is a detailed drawing of the project site. Subsequently, an intermediate scale intervention proposal must be drawn up according to the chosen strategic line. This would include: The definition of new layouts and their connections to the existing ones, or the modification of the latter (e.g. pedestrian paths, roads, public transport lines), a housing programme with facilities, the definition of the building typologies used, and the land urbanization by differentiation surface treatments. The compositional criteria for the design of the proposal will be of great importance.

Work submission:
(a) An A1 format with enough drawings to define the proposal, e.g. plans, facades, sections, diagrams, location and relationship of the proposal with the rest of the Masterplan, typological definition, perspectives. Plan drawing of the proposal at E:1/2.000. Typological definition at E: 1/1.000, 1/500. And
(b) A physical model of size, scale, and materiality to be decided by each group of students according to the nature of the proposal.

|**Evaluation**|

Assessment criteria:

- Fulfilment of the work to the submission statement and to the timetable.
- Quality of the work (design, graphics, drawings).

Marks (as a percentage of the overall score):

Situation: 20%
Masterplan: 30%
Project: 50%
TOTAL: 100%

Important note: To pass the subject without the need to attend the ordinary (June) and/or the extraordinary exam call (July) it is mandatory to submit both the Masterplan and the Project on time as well as to pass them. The latter means a minimum score of 5 out of 10.

|**Timetable**|

Month	Week	Day (Mo-Tu)	Program	Work submissions
Frebruary	1	17-18	Subject presentation/Introduction of the project site/Student groups creation	
	2	24-25	L1 / Project progress workshop	
March	3	3-4	L2 / Project progress workshop	
	4	10-11	Presentation and submission of the Situation step	X
	5	17-18	L3 / Presentation of invited architects from the public sector / Project progress workshop	
	6	24-25	L4 / Project progress workshop	
April	7	31-1	L5 / Project progress workshop	
	8	7-8	Presentation and submission of the Masterplan step	X
	9	14(n/t)-15(n/t)	-	
	10	21(n/t)-22	Project progress workshop	
	11	28-29	L6 / Project progress workshop	
May	12	5-6	L7 / Project progress workshop	
	13	12-13	Project progress workshop	
	14	19-20	Project progress workshop	
	15	26-27	Presentation and submission of the Project step	X

Notes: n/t = no teaching day. The timetable may change depending on the progress of the subject.

Ordinary exam call (9 June 2025 10:30h T1): It consists of the re-elaboration of the not passed work throughout the course

Extraordinary exam call (4 July 2025 10:30h T1): It consists of the re-elaboration of the not passed work in the ordinary exam call (June).