

## Course Prospectus

2022



# Urban Design Africa

## About

*Urban Design Africa* is a short course, linked to the Master of Urban Design Programme at UCT. The course considers the application of urban design and spatial southern theory in African cities. Over the six week period, debates are intended to revolve around an emerging socio-spatial agenda of the **everyday African City**.

The course is conducted over 6 seminars (1/week) and investigates:

- **URBAN SPACE:** exploration of city form and landscape qualities in the African context, including tangible aspects of **urban space, structure and form** (including housing, land, transport, infrastructure); and intangible concepts of **space-making processes and the activation and occupation of space** (including the politics and power of space, informality, displacement).
- **URBAN IDENTITY:** exploration of concepts of place, people and power, including reviewing **everyday social, economic and cultural patterns and rhythms of the city**.
- **URBAN TIME:** exploration of key moments in African cities and their influence on critical thought and place-making in the post-[de]colonial era; learning from different timeframes and scales of urban change, **yesterday, today & tomorrow**.
- **URBAN CONTEXT:** the role of urban design in Africa is animated via case study analysis in **six African cities** and reflects on urban design practice in the global south.



UCT  
school of  
architecture,  
planning &  
geomatics

## What is the course about?

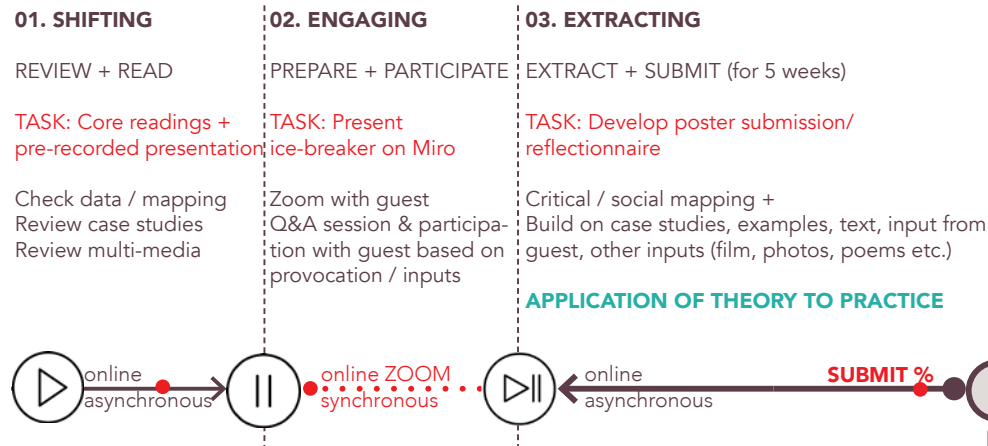
How can urban design advance progressive spatial practices in the global south that celebrates cultural expression and social well-being, whilst addressing strategic, positive change in a world of uncertainty?



## Content

The course forms PART 1 *urban[design] AFRICA* of a larger Urban Design Theory II course linked to the Master of Urban Design Programme at UCT. In Part 1, six African cities are explored through a series of interactive on-line learning seminars over six weeks. Each city is based on themes related to critical readings, multi-media inputs and discussions that arise from them. The seminars are unique but follow a three part structure: *shifting, engaging and extracting*. This is guided by the convenor.

### PEDAGOGY:



### OBJECTIVES:

- **To understand and locate urban (informal) neighbourhood transformation** going beyond the public realm to include housing, questioning density; migration and the rate of spatial change influenced by informal growth/urban sprawl; understanding real time changes in urban form; and reviewing the flow of information, resources and movement. This fundamentally questions the role of urban design and ways of thinking of the **production of space in conflict and uncertainty**: characteristic, causes, effects, hidden agendas, biases, contradictions and failures.
- **To encourage interdisciplinary collaborations** with others around intersecting themes with design as the core discipline that integrates the findings.
- **To work across scales from city to neighbourhood to street** but realising the local neighbourhood area scale is where contextual issues can be fully understood and acknowledged.

### OUTCOMES & LEARNINGS:

- Broad understanding and familiarity with the theory / approaches of complex African cities, with the insight to use lessons to inform or critique design thinking and intent;
- Recognising the value of supporting improved urban and landscape quality through design at the local area scale;
- Competency in gathering, organising, analyzing, interpreting and representing (written / drawn) information relating to urban theory; combined with presenting urban case studies related to African cities.

### PARTICIPATION & ASSESSMENT:

Each week you *shift-engage-extract* and SUBMIT (20% per week):

- **SHIFT:** You can take your time to review the information / readings, but **Wednesdays\*\*** are set aside for interaction with guests / lecturers, mainly on-line + all sessions will be recorded.  
\*\*Time dependent on externals / guests / practitioners.
- **ENGAGE:** You are expected to actively participate in the discussions on-line. Please use all forms of drawing and words... (re)writing the city differently. #Miro is for posting your work and for interaction and reflection - between student to student and student to lecturer / practitioner. This is encouraged as engaged scholarship.
- **EXTRACT:** Formal submissions will be posted weekly for 5 weeks. A final class discussion will be held in week 6 to conclude the short course.



## Where is the course situated?



**JOHANNESBURG**  
26°12'S 28°2'E



**MAPUTO**  
25°58'S 32°34'E



**HARARE**  
17°49'S 31°3'E



**NAIROBI**  
01°17'S 36°49'E



**ADDIS ABABA**  
9°1'N 38°45'E



**DAR ES SALAAM**  
6°49'S 39°17'E

# Context

The course intends to ignite a journey of discovery & imagination, exploring six African cities: Johannesburg, Maputo, Harare, Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam\* to guide debate on urban design theory, methodologies, approaches and practice. We will be understanding, translating, revealing and questioning urban transformation in six African cities, but the application and lessons are intended to extend to other cities in Africa and beyond to the global south.

These cities offer a brief overview of:

- **Urban morphology** revealing differences and similarities and illustrating the impact of colonial city-making, historical influences & current trends, investment and impact on the evolution of space.
- **Urban landscape** of coastal (port) cities and land-locked cities to understand the flow of economy, resources, water, space and people.
- **Politics of space** of African cities and the overground policies of planning vs the underground networks of informality, migration, all resulting in transformation.
- **Practice of place-making** through case studies and projects in the different cities.

A specific focus for each city aims to unpack a certain theme or focus area to expand the understanding of urban design in African cities.

*\*cities are subject to change*

JOHANNESBURG

inner city regeneration & conflict

MAPUTO

politics & culture of space

HARARE

peri-urban land & informality

NAIROBI

social infrastructure & place

ADDIS ABABA

housing & urban form

DAR-ES-SALAAM

neighbourhood transformation

## How is the course structured?



# Programme

## ONLINE ACTIVITIES

### on-line knowledge platform

A supportive virtual space will be accessible to share resources and to access a variety of learning materials such as readings, web links, films and other creative works and aerial maps and case studies.

We will use the UCT VULA platform (t.b.c.).

### facilitated group learning

Group engagement is seen as an important aspect of the course and collective group learning sessions will be facilitated each week. This also allows for peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

We will use the ZOOM & MIRO (t.b.c.) platforms for on-line engagement.

### personal reflections

Each participant is encouraged to reflect on their thoughts throughout the course.

Weekly ice-breakers are a form of individual contribution & a platform to spark debate and discussion in sessions.

Preparatory reading and review will be necessary prior to the course.

### individual / group project

Participants will complete a series of posters using their choice or representation (visual, written, audio, film/video etc.). The design outcomes of the course are viewed as a plurality of inputs generated through interdisciplinary discourse, group debate and individual reflection.

## 6-WEEK SEMINAR PROGRAMME: 1 day/week (approx.48 hours)

40% synchronous (3 hrs interactive learning on-line/week) & 60% asynchronous time (5 hrs group / individual work off-line/checks)

### WEEK 1: JOHANNESBURG

#### **Drivers of change and urban transport**

Opening a conversation with the urban challenge / urbanity

### WEEK 2: MAPUTO

#### **The politics of space**

Using critical mappings (people, place, power) to review space

### WEEK 3: HARARE

#### **Informality and economic life space**

Learning urban design tools for analysis & design intent

### WEEK 4: NAIROBI

#### **Public space as social infrastructure**

Testing design propositions as prototypical spatial strategies

### WEEK 5: ADDIS ABABA

#### **Housing and urban form**

Unpacking lessons from rapid urban development

### WEEK 6: DAR ES SALAAM

#### **Neighbourhood transformation**

Questioning the impact of local-scale, self-built infrastructure

*Closing the conversation*

*\*cities & themes are subject to change*

## Who is the course for?

The course will benefit students, built environment practitioners, government officials and interested parties who are involved in the development and design of the changing urban environment in the African context.

# Registration

### ONLINE LEARNING

The course is presented in the online format. You will require stable wifi and suitable bandwidth + computer + quiet space to work & interact online for 1 day/week over 6 weeks.

#### Registration

**Register** online here.

Registration covers attendance of all sessions of the course and on-line course material. Registrations close 2 weeks before the start of the course.

**Cancellations** must be received one week before the start of the course, or the full course fee will be charged.

#### Assessment

**Group interaction** is encouraged and will take place at the in each seminar. Participants are encouraged to comment on each others work.

**Project posters** will be submitted each week for 5 weeks (20% / poster) starting from week 1 to week 5.

The final week will be a reflection of the course discussed in class.

#### Certificates

**Certificate of attendance** will be awarded to CPD participants who attend all of the live sessions and complete 5 of the 6 sessions.

**Certificate of completion** will be awarded to participants who attend all of the live sessions, complete each session, and achieve a minimum of 50% in the individual posters.

**CPD validated.**

#### Fees

The fee for the total 6-week course will be:

Standard delegate course completion: R8500.00

Standard delegate course attendance only: R6500.00

Standard student\*/staff\*\* completion: R6500.00

\* all students  
\*\* UCT staff

### Date of course: 6 weeks

6 x Wednesdays from **27 July 2022 to 31 August 2022**

### Application deadline:

2 weeks prior to the start of the course e.g. by 11 July 2022

## Postgraduate Students

- Urban design students must complete PART 1 & PART 2 as part of the Master of Urban Design (MUD) degree at UCT.
- PART 1 is open to interested students engaged in other built environment courses / degrees.

## Built Environment Professionals

- Continuing professional development (CPD) for spatial professionals (urban designers, architects, landscape architects, planners).
- Other built environment professionals including engineers, land surveyors, geographers, heritage and environmental practitioners.

## Government / Municipal officials

- Interested government officials / employees who engage with urban design professionals and development projects at the local neighbourhood scale.
- Policy-makers and strategic leadership within municipal government.

*An understanding in basic mapping is essential prior to starting the course.*



The background of the entire page is a detailed, light gray line drawing of a city street grid. The grid is irregular, with various block sizes and street patterns, suggesting an urban environment. The lines are thin and black, creating a complex web of shapes across the page.

# Details

## COURSE CONVENOR:

The convenor and lecturer of the course, Dr Kathryn Ewing is an architect, city planner and urban designer, an academic and a practitioner. She will be assisted by urban designer practitioners and researchers / academics. The intention, however, is to make the course as interactive as possible, in the on-line platform.

e. [kathryn.ewing@uct.ac.za](mailto:kathryn.ewing@uct.ac.za)

## COMMUNICATION *(subject to change):*

Online UCT VULA for all information + communication + submissions  
Online Zoom sessions will take place 1/week  
Miro for interactive learning each week  
Whats app group for information

## INFORMATION:

For more information on application and registration procedures, please visit our website: on <http://www.cpd.uct.ac.za/cpd/register>

# Register now!