

Course Prospectus

2024



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 course, debates revolve around an emerging socio-spatial agenda of the **everyday African City**.

The course is conducted over a 'block' 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 **African cities** and reflects on urban design practice in the global south.



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geomatics

What is the course about?

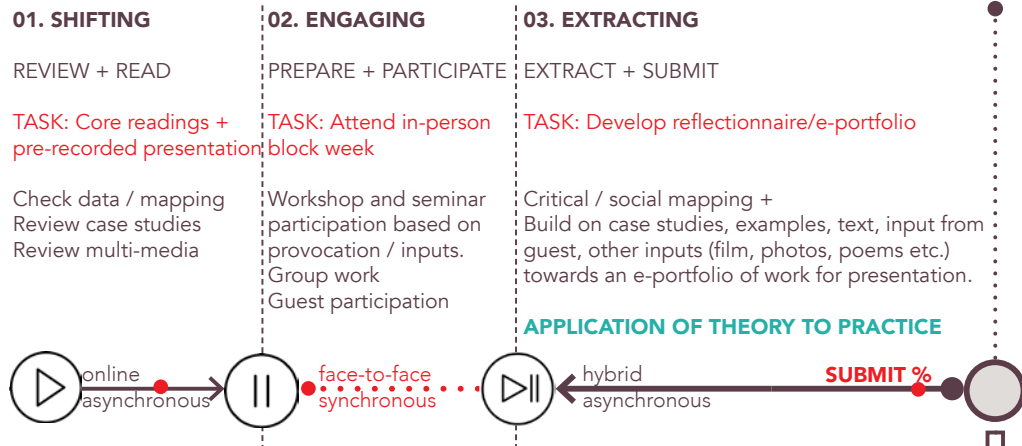


How can urban design advance progressive spatial practices in the global south that celebrates cultural expression and social well-being, whilst addressing strategic, positive change in a world of uncertainty?

Content

The course forms PART 1 *urban[design]* **AFRICA** of an Urban Design Theory II course linked to the Master of Urban Design Programme at UCT. In Part 1, African cities are explored through a series of interactive seminars and workshops. The cities are 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, analyzing, interpreting and representing (written / drawn) information relating to Southern urban theory and case studies related to African cities.

PARTICIPATION & ASSESSMENT:

The course is conducted over 1 block week (5 days in person) + 1 day if students are presenting for completion. i.e. 6 days in total.

- **SHIFTING:** Pre-activities are provided before the seminars for review provided on online on Amathuba.
- **ENGAGING:** In session activities encourage students to actively participate face-to-face on campus in the seminars and workshops. Group work is encouraged in the block week between students. Discussions will take place with students, lecturer and guest practitioners* in key sessions in the block week to expand the learnings.
- **EXTRACT:** A final class discussion will be held on day 6 to conclude the short course (in the week after the block week). This may be in person or online on day 6.

**Time dependent on externals / guests / practitioners.

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 different African cities, such as 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 and questioning urban transformation in 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.
- **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 African 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?



BLOCK-WEEK SEMINAR PROGRAMME: 5 days + 1 day
(approx.48 hours). The course takes place at UCT in Cape Town

- DAY 1:** WORKSHOP 1: Recognition of urban design in Africa
Questioning spatial justice and the role of design
- SEMINAR 1: JOHANNESBURG*
Effects of apartheid spatial planning and colonialisation
- DAY 2:** SEMINAR 2: MAPUTO
The politics of space and questioning informal urbanism
- SEMINAR 3: HARARE
Land, informal occupation & economic life space
- GROUP DISCUSSION and class working time on e-portfolio
- DAY 3:** WORKSHOP 2: Transformation of space in urban Africa
Learning urban design tools for analysis & design intent
- SEMINAR 4: NAIROBI
Public space as social infrastructure
- DAY 4:** SEMINAR 5: ADDIS ABABA
Housing, urban form and rapid development
- SEMINAR 6: DAR ES SALAAM
Neighbourhood transformation and self-built infrastructure
- DAY 5:** GROUP DISCUSSION and class working time on e-portfolio
- DAY 6:** WORKSHOP 3: Final e-Portfolio presentations (hybrid mode)

**cities & themes are subject to change*

Programme

LEARNING 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 AMATHUBA platform.

facilitated group learning

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

We will use the on-line MIRO platform.

personal reflections

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

An e-portfolio enables 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 an e-portfolio using their choice or representation (visual, written, audio, film/video etc.). The learning outcomes of the course are viewed as a plurality of inputs generated through interdisciplinary discourse, group debate and individual reflection.

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

HYBRID LEARNING

The course is presented in the hybrid format. You will require a laptop computer. The 5-day block week is held in-person on UCT campus, APG Centlivres, 5th floor. Day 6 can be hybrid.

Registration	Assessment	Certificates	Fees
<p>Register online.</p> <p>Registration covers attendance of all sessions of the course and on-line course material.</p> <p>Registrations close 1 week before the start of the course.</p> <p>Cancellations must be received one week before the start of the course, or the full course fee will be charged.</p>	<p>Group interaction is encouraged in seminar and workshops face-to-face on campus at UCT in the 5 day session.</p> <p>An e-Portfolio will be presented on the final day 6 of the course hybrid i.e. either in person or online. The day will also be a reflection of the course discussed in the week.</p>	<p>Certificate of attendance will be awarded to CPD participants who attend all 5 days of the block week.</p> <p>Certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who attend all of the seminars and workshops, and present their individual e-portfolio on day 6.</p> <p>CPD validated.</p>	<p>The fee for the total course will be:</p> <p>Standard delegate course completion: R8500.00</p> <p>Standard student*/staff** completion: R6500.00</p> <p><i>* all students</i> <i>** UCT staff</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: Catering is not part of the course fee.</i></p>

Date of course: 6 days

1 x block week, 5 days (for attendance): **15 to 19 July 2024**

1 x day presentation (for completion): **24 July 2024** (hybrid option)

Application deadline:

2 weeks prior to the start of the course e.g. by **08 July 2024**

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 / GIS is essential prior to starting the course.



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 designer practitioners and researchers / academics. The intention, however, is to make the course as interactive as possible, learning from each other.

e. kathryn.ewing@uct.ac.za

COMMUNICATION *(subject to change):*

Online UCT Amathuba for information, communication + submissions
Face-to-face interaction, based in Cape Town, UCT, Centlivres Building
Miro for interactive learning
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!