

PLAN 6011

CITIES, BUILDINGS, AND MATERIALITY

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Program in Urban Planning

Instructor: R. Beauregard
Tuesdays, 9 - 11 200 Buell

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of cities, and the buildings that comprise them, as heterogeneous assemblages of people, material forms, technologies, and nature. My goal is to introduce you to a less human-centered perspective on planning, architecture, real estate, and historic preservation. Instead I want to emphasize how humans and their various organizations collaborate with nature and technologies to make and unmake cities and buildings. When humans, act, they always do so with others, many of whom are non-human things. We plan cities using watersheds, cellphone towers, exit/entry ramps, BRT lanes, and retention ponds and we construct buildings that (once built) encompass heating systems, automatic door closers, nesting birds, cockroaches, and stair railings.

Course Readings

The required course readings are available in a course packet that is available at Village Copier at 1181 Amsterdam Avenue at 118th Street.

Assignments

Students are expected to do the course readings prior to class and be ready to discuss them. There will also be three assignments. The first is a summary of a LiPS lecture – “Geological Urbanism” -- by Ignacio Farias on September 27. The second asks you to investigate an urban object and use this object to reflect on the materiality of the city. The third assignment involves documenting the use of a public or private space from a socio-material perspective. The due dates for the assignments are shown on the Schedule below. Specific guidelines are posted under “Files” on the web page for the course.

Grading

LiPS Summary: Farias	15 percent
Entangled Objects	40 percent
Spaces, Materials, and Activities	35 percent
Class Participation	10 percent

Consultations

If you wish to meet individually about the course, please contact me. My e-mail address is rab48@columbia.edu and my office telephone is (212) 854-6280. My office is 305 Buell Hall. Office hours will be Tuesday, 3-5 and Wednesday, 9-11. Best would be for you to make an appointment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. September 6	Materiality, Heterogeneity, and Networks
2. September 13	Things, Affordances, and Delegation
3. September 20	Infrastructural Technologies Entangled Objects statement due
4. September 27	Regulatory Technologies
5. October 4	Urban Metabolism LiPS summary due
6. October 11	Ecological Niches
7. October 18	Urban Political Ecology Draft of Entangled Objects due
8. October 25	Cyborg Urbanization Spaces, Material, and Activities statement due
9. November 1	Buildings as Socio-Material Networks Final version of Entangled Objects due
November 8	No Class
10. November 15	Building Obsolescence and Life Cycles
11. November 22	Embodied Energy and Recycling Draft of Spaces, Materials, and Activities due
12. November 29	Obduracy and Embodied Responsibility
13. December 6	Blight to Demolition
December 12	Last Day of Classes Final version of Spaces, Materials, and Activities due

ASSIGNED READINGS

1. Materiality, Heterogeneity, and Networks

Laura Lieto and Robert Beauregard. 2013. "Planning for a Material World," *Crios* 6:11-20.

Geoff Manaugh. 2016. *A Burglar's Guide to the City*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, pp. 3-15

Ian Frazier. 2014. "Streetscape: Do Not Cross," *The New Yorker*, 90, 15:26-27.

2. Things, Affordances, and Delegation

Bruno Latour. 2004. "Nonhumans," in S. Harrison, S. Pile., and N. Thrift, eds., *Patterned Ground*. London: Reaktion Books, pp. 224-227.

Harvey Molotch. 2011. "Objects and the City," in G. Bridge and S. Watson, eds., *The New Blackwell Companion to the City*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 66-78.

Jane Bennett. 2007. "Edible Matter," *New Left Review* 45: 133-145.

3. Infrastructural Technologies

Walter Isard. 1942. "Transport Development and Building Cycles," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 57:90-112.

Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin, *Splintered Urbanism*. London: Routledge, 2001, pp. 39-68.

Jack Healy. 2016. "Colorado Towns Work to Preserve a Diminishing Resource: Darkness," *The New York Times*, August 13.

4. Regulatory Technologies

Douglas C. Baker, et al. 2006. "Performance-Based Planning," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 25, 4:396-409.

Elissa Black. 2008. "Green Neighborhood Standards from a Planning Perspective," *Focus* 5, 1:40-47.

Emily S. Rueb, 2016, "Why Are the Streets Always Torn Up?" *The New York Times*, August 21.

Margaret A. Corwin. No Date. *Street-Naming and Property-Naming Systems*. Chicago, IL: Planning Advisory No. 332, pp. 1-2.

Glenn Collins. 2009. "Diners to Get a Quick Guide to Cleanliness," *The New York Times*, January 31.

5. Urban Metabolism

Abel Wolman. 1965. "The Metabolism of Cities," *Scientific American* 213, 3: 178-188, 190.

Christopher Kennedy, John Cuddihy and Joshua Engel-Yan. 2007. "The Changing Metabolism of Cities," *Journal of Industrial Ecology* 11, 2:43-59.

6. Ecological Niches

Steve Hinchcliffe and Sarah Whatmore. 2006. "Living Cities: Towards a Politics of Conviviality," *Science as Culture* 15, 2:123-138.

Dawn Day Biehler. 2013. *Pests in the City*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, pp. 3-11.

David Taft. 2015. "Wild in the Streets," *New York Times*, July 5.

Matt A.V. Chaban. 2016. "Now Displaced by Gentrification: New York's Feral Cats," *New York Times*, May 24.

Menno Schilthuizen. 2016. "Natural Selection Speeds Up," *The New York Times*, July 24.

7. Urban Political Ecology

Roger Keil. 2003. "Urban Political Ecology," *Urban Geography* 24, 8:723-738.

Robert B. Olshansky and Laurie A. Johnson. 2010. *Clear as Mud: Planning for the*

Rebuilding of New Orleans. Chicago: Planners Press, pp. 3-12.
 Eric Klinenberg. 2002. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 14-32.

8. Cyborg Urbanization

Matthew Gandy. 2005. "Cyborg Urbanization: Complexity and Monstrosity in the Contemporary City," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29, 1:26-49.

Robert Kirkman. 2009. "At Home in the Seamless Web: Obduracy and the Ethics of Metropolitan Growth," *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 34, 2:235-258.

Kim Dovey. 2011. "Uprooting Critical Urbanism," *City* 15, 3-4, pp. 347-354.

9. Buildings as Socio-Material Networks

Robert Beauregard. 2012. "In Search of Assemblages," *Crios* 4:9-16.

Stephen Cairns and Jane M. Jacobs. 2014. *Buildings Must Die*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 11-17.

Catherine Fennel. 2011. "'Project Heat' and Sensory Politics in Redeveloping Chicago Public Housing," *Ethnography* 12, 1:40-64.

10. Building Obsolescence and Life-Cycles

Stephen Cairns and Jane M. Jacobs. 2014. *Buildings Must Die*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 102-115.

Daniel M. Abramson. 2003. "Obsolescence: Notes Towards a History," *Praxis* 5: 106-112.

Alan Ashworth. 1996. "Assessing the Life Expectancies of Buildings and Their Components in Life Cycle Costing," *Cobra '96*. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

11. Embodied Energy and Recycling

Gian Andrea Blengini. 2009. "Life Cycle of Building Demolition and Recycling Potential: A Case Study in Turin, Italy," *Buildings and Environment* 44:319-330.

Raymond J. Cole and Paul C. Kernan. 1996. "Life-Cycle Energy Use in Office Buildings," *Building and Environment* 31, 4:307-317.

Zhuguo Li. 2006. "A New Life Cycle Impact Assessment Approach for Buildings," *Building and Environment* 41:1414-1422.

12. Obduracy and Embodied Responsibility

Robert Beauregard. 2016. "Planning and the Politics of Resistance," in L. Lieto and R. Beauregard, eds., *Planning for a Material World*. London: Routledge, pp. 10-25.

Robert Beauregard. 2015. "We Blame the Building! The Architecture of Distributed Responsibility," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39, 3: 533-549.

13. Blight to Demolition

Andrew Herscher. 2015. "Black and Blight." *Progressive Planning* 205: 21-25.

John Eligon. 2015. "Crackdown in Detroit Stripped of Metal Parts," *The New York Times*, March 16.

Bengt O.H. Johansson. 2011. "The Post-War Destruction of Swedish Cities," *Building Research & Information* 39, 4:412-429.