Columbia University, GSAPP, Spring 2017
A6868: Urban Design Seminar IIIa: The Global New Town (aka, New Town to Smart City)
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This class will examine the spatial management of populations as demonstrated in two paradigmatic yet overlapping instances: the "New Town" of the mid-20th century and the "Smart City" of the early 21st century. We will explore how these settlement forms have been (and continue to be) theorized, planned, designed, built, represented, and experienced.

The New Town was modernism's emphatic answer to urbanization. Embedded in the variously interpreted discourses of Garden Cities, miscellaneous "Ideal Cities" and the *Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne* (CIAM), the mid-20th century New Town entailed the deployment of architecture to create and manage the entirety of a newly delineated territory. The complexity of interaction among people, goods, land, and technologies became a singular event to be controlled. This goal reached across scales, economies and experiences, from desks and chairs, to streets and highways, and to regional infrastructures and national border-setting. The logic of the New Town was adopted by professional organizations, government bodies and international institutions, and New Towns were proposed or built in the global north and across the developing, often colonial-ruled global south. The real and imagined outcomes of these experiments in totality varied greatly.

In recent years, the discourse of urban totality has continued in the form of uniquely specialized cities including *Eco-City, Political City, Enclave City, Economic City, High-Tech City, Resilient City*, among others. Each is presumably "smart" in precisely utilizing resources, managing demographics, organizing space and creating new development opportunities. Their infrastructural, spatial and programmatic operations, usually based on ubiquitous computing, have made possible unprecedented ways of monitoring life patterns at all scales. Smart Cities promise new levels of frictionless urbanism and are being proposed and built (in whole or in part) across the globe, especially in Asia and the Middle East.

The class will examine the socio-political, spatial and technological specificities of each paradigm of urban design but will also ask what logics, rhetorics and assumptions they share? Despite the half-century that separates them, do they occupy similar positions in the global process of urbanization? How have urban development, land use, spatial management, and capital investment shifted in the historical trajectory linking the New Town and the Smart City, and extending into the future.

I. Modernism and Urbanization: Part I of the class will set the context for understanding the historical dynamic between modernism and urbanization. The work during these weeks consists of reading, discussion, and shared blog entries.

II. Modern New Towns and Urbanism: Representing the New Town
During these weeks, the class will examine how mid-century New Towns *performed.* For the first project, student groups will create a dossier to explain New Town logics, layouts, operations and experience. This project will entail a combination of documentation and speculation. The deliverable is a book, and a semi-public discussion will be held in early April.

Part III: Smart Cities: Representing the Smart City
During these weeks, the class will examine shifts from hard to soft infrastructure, from mobility to information, and other means by which the Smart City has been identified. The second project will build on the New Town project and explore how the changes seen in the Smart City can best be represented.

The Final review of the class will entail an exhibition of the work of both projects.