

Syllabus (draft) for 2026 CAUP International Graduate Class – Vitality of Modern City

2026年同济大学 建筑城市规划学院 国际研究生班教学大纲 —— 城市 生命力

This class intends to help design background students to understand “often oblivious surroundings” for their works. For an architecture, or a relevant design work, it has to be sit in its urban setting; as an architect, or a relevant designer, he has to live with other urban dwellers together.

本课程旨在帮助设计背景的学生理解他们作品中“经常被忽视的环境”。
对于一个建筑或相关的设计作品来说，它必须坐落在城市环境中；作为一名建筑师或相关设计师，他必须与其他城市居民一起生活

Comparing to some design lecture which is meant to build up “outstanding mentality”, this course would like to tell you how to stand among those usual “default context”, and recognize those common urban values, thus, paving an easier path connecting to the professional reality for students’ graduated career.

与一些旨在建立“超群心态”的训练相比，本课程想告诉设计学生如何站在那些常见的“默认背景”中，认识到那些公认的城市价值观，从而，为学生的毕业生涯铺平一条更容易与职业现实联系起来的道路。



Panorama of Philadelphia Delaware Riverfront Wang Yan from <Vitality of Modern City>

Introduction

This course will explore 7 powers driving modern city growth, based on Mr. Wang's writing <Vitality of Modern City>, presenting to the design background student in a broad humanity view on modern society in flux.

本课程将基于王先生的著作《现代城市的活力》，
探讨推动现代城市发展的7种力量，以广阔的人文视野向设计背景的学生展示现代社会的激荡演生。

Modern city is the subsequence of society modernization and representation of human and urban modernity. This course takes Philadelphia, Shanghai, New York and others as the epitomes for urban modernization procedure, and explores the enduring driving forces of modern urban development, by primarily reviewing Philadelphia's 300 year history.

现代城市是社会现代化的产物，是人与城市现代性的体现。本课程以费城、上海、纽约等城市为城市现代化进程的缩影，主要回顾费城300年的历史，探讨现代城市发展的持久动力。

The evolutions of Shanghai and Philadelphia are in sync with the modernization procedure in urban history, and both are transformed from colonial port into global metropolis. As one of the very first cities applying modern principles, Philadelphia offers a clear view to exam the truth of urbanization.

上海和费城的演变与城市历史上的现代化进程是同步的，两者都从殖民港口转变为全球大都市。作为最早应用现代原则的城市之一，费城为检验城市化的真相提供了清晰的视角。

Designated for architectural student, the course also takes several micro-scale cases to illustrate how a good design strategy can fit into urban context, by carrying the powers from modern humanity.

本课程专为建筑学学生设计，也会通过几个微观案例来说明一个好的设计策略如何通过承载现代人性的力量来适应城市环境。

Course Design

This course is for 1st and 2nd year international architecture graduate students, and can be open to the students in department of urban planning and department landscape. The teaching objectives of the course are:

- a. an understanding of modern city evolution;
- b. an understanding of basic principles of modern city;
- c. an understanding of innovative approach in micro-figuration urban context.
- d. application of principles gained in lectures and class discussions to create a report (presentation) on students' hometown's evolution; and final research report on the transformation for an assigned urban area in Shanghai.

课程面向一年级和二年级国际建筑研究生，可以面向城市规划系和景观系学生开放。教学本课程的目标是：

- a. 了解现代城市的演变；
- b. 了解现代城市的基本原则；
- c. 理解微观城市环境中的创新方法。
- d. 应用讲座和课堂讨论中获得的原则，撰写一份关于学生家乡演变的报告（演示文稿）；以及上海市特定城区改造的最终研究报告。

During the course, students will have a couple of site visits on 2 or 3 Shanghai local neighborhoods and community activists, helping students to setup community view on the urban issues and perspectives. Based on these interviews and researches, the course is expecting the students' version of Shanghai story in the final.

在课程中，学生将对2、3个上海当地社区和社区活动者进行几次实地考察和访问，帮助学生树立社区对城市问题和观点的看法。基于这些访谈和研究，本课程期末，期待着学生自己讲述一段上海故事。

In order to help international student have a better understanding of international design market, the course also inserts several lectures on real design practice, thus the class will organize the lectures by three groups:

- a. Urban evolution and theory lectures, following <Vitality of Modern City> chapters, this part lectures will take 50% of 16 weeks
- b. Design professional lectures, this part intends to offer student a snapshot of design professions thru 3 sessions:
 - b-1 How international design firms run their business;
 - b-2 What is the differences between architect and urban designer;
 - b-3 An example of urban design principles guiding the architecture works.This part will take 10% of the course.
- c. Lectures on Shanghai history from local community managers and designers. It will 5-10% of the semester study.

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4 Credits

为了帮助国际学生更好地了解国际设计市场，本课程还插入了几节关于实际设计实践的讲座，因此本班将分三组，组织讲座：

- a. 城市演变和理论讲座，依据《现代城市的活力》章节讲课，这部分讲座将占16周的 50%
- b. 设计专业讲座，这部分旨在通过3节课为学生提供设计专业的快照：
 - b-1 国际设计公司如何经营业务；
 - b-2 建筑师和城市设计师有什么区别；
 - b-3 指导建筑工程的城市设计原则示例。这部分将占课程的10%。
- c. 当地社区管理人员和设计师关于上海历史的讲座。这将占学期学习的 5-10%。

Course Objectives

The course meets the following learning objectives:

- 1) General Urban Modernization Knowledge: course addresses design strategy aligning with the universal principles in modern urban context; investigates modern city patterns and history of modern city.
- 2) Urban Design Skills: as part of a class project, students will gain experience in research methods, review community's issues and challenges in its neighborhood evolution, and how they frame and guide for their developments
- 3) Values and Ethics: Students will encounter issues of ecological sustainability, environmental quality, social justice, and growth in an social-economic background.

本课程符合以下学习目标：

- 1) 一般城市现代化知识：课程涉及与现代城市环境中的普遍原则相一致的设计策略；研究现代城市格局和现代城市历史。
- 2) 城市设计技能：作为课堂项目的一部分，学生将获得研究方法的经验，回顾社区在社区演变中的问题和挑战，以及他们如何为自己的发展制定框架和指导
- 3) 价值观和伦理：学生将在社会经济背景下遇到生态可持续性、环境质量、社会正义和增长等问题。

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Tongji University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For this course, collaboration is allowed for group assignments.

本课程的每个学生都应遵守同济大学学术诚信守则。学生在本课程中提交的任何学分作品都将是学生自己的作品。对于本课程，小组作业允许合作。

Course Readings

There will be limited number of course readings. I have an AI translated version <Vitality of Modern City> for student, Some references, I will ask CAUP library reserve for the class. (or accessible online). Outside the assigned readings you will be tapping many of your own sources for the purpose of data collection.

课程阅读数量有限。我为学生准备了一个人工智能翻译版的《现代城市的活力》，一些参考资料，学生代表可来CAUP图书馆预订。（或可在线访问）。在指定的读数之外，您将利用许多自己的来源进行数据收集。

Course Grading

Grades for the course will be based upon:

1. Homework Assignments. (30% of grade Mid-term) There will be one individual assignment that will involve observation and analysis outside of the classroom and preparation of a 3-page report and 6-7 slide PowerPoint Presentation.
2. Class/Team Project. (60% of grade, Final presentation and 4 -6 pages writing executive summary on your project)
3. Self- and Peer-Evaluations. (completing this exercise = 10% of grade for) A critical aspect of success in professional practice is the ability to fairly assess and critique the quality of your work, and the work of your peers. At the end of the semester you will complete a questionnaire assessing your performance and that of your peers in the class.

本课程的成绩将基于：

1. 作业。（占学期中成绩的30%）将有一项个人作业，涉及课堂外的观察和分析，以及准备一份3页的报告和6-7张幻灯片的PowerPoint演示文稿。
2. 期中期末 个人/团队项目。（60%的成绩，期末报告和4-6页的项目执行摘要）
3. 自我和同伴评估。（完成此练习=成绩的10%）在专业实践中取得成功的一个关键方面是能够公平地评估和批评你的工作质量以及同行的工作。学期末，你将完成一份问卷，评估你和班上同学的表现。

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Course Schedule

4 credit course in 16 weeks, each week has 4 classes. Should be arranged in 2 classes as one lectured time in order to build focus and continuity for student, so that 2 days in a week, ideally arranged on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon

课程表 （按教务处要求 课程为16周4学分，每周4节课。应安排为2节课作为一次授课时间，以培养学生的专注力和连续性，这样一周有2天，最好安排在周二下午和周四下午）

Date	Topic	Study	
W1-1	Introduction to course, administrative details	Student-self introduction & Brief of his/her home town/city	
W1-2	Background of modern society's emerging	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W2-1	Power of Tolerance -1 Cultivate Diversified Urban Life	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W2-2	Power of Tolerance -2 Cultivate Diversified Urban Life	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W3-1	Power of Affinity -1 Generate Shared-value Community	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W3-2	Power of Affinity -2 Generate Shared-value Community	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W4-1	Lecture- 1 History of RuiJin 2 nd Street Shanghai		
W4-2	Site Visit & Interview of RuiJin 2 nd Street Shanghai		
W5-1	Homework-1 RuiJin Neighborhood Report		
W5-2	Lecture- 2 Brief Introduction of SH Evolution		
W6-1	Power of Regularity -1 Integrate Explicitly Modern Standard	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W6-2	Power of Regularity -2 Integrate Explicitly Modern Standard	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W7-1	Power of Expansion -1 Weave Well-connected Network	Lewis Mumford Yan Wang	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W7-2	Midterm Workshop Hometown Study		
W8-1	Midterm Preview Hometown Presentation		
W8-2	Midterm Presentation		

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W9-1	Power of Sustainability -1 Construct Resilient Framework	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W9-2	Power of Sustainability -2 Construct Resilient Framework	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W10-1	Lecture -2 How International Firm run design business		
W10-2	Lecture -3 Xujiahui History		
W11-1	Site Visit XuJiahui Tushanwan Museum SH		
W11-2	Workshop of Xujiahui		
W12-1	Site Visit Xujiahui SH Observatory & Library		
W12-2	Homework Presentation		
W13-1	Power of Affection -1 Promote Proactive Reaction	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W13-2	Power of Affection -2 Promote Proactive Reaction	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W14-1	Power of Endogeny -1 Build Urban Metabolism System	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W14-2	Power of Endogeny -2 Build Urban Metabolism System	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> <i>Yan Wang</i>	The City in History Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its Growth
W15-1	Lecture -5 Urban Design Case MIT Campus Evolution		
W15-2	Workshop for Final Presentation		
W16-1	Preview Final Presentation		
W16-2	Final Presentation		



Shanghai Bund in 1930s *Wang Yan from Yan's Sketch Book*

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Reference List

Lewis Mumford: The City in History

Yan Wang: Vitality of Modern City – 7 Powers Driving its growth

Witold Rybczynski: City Life

Edward Glaeser: Triumph of the City

Ian McHarg: Design with Nature

Christopher Alexander: A Pattern Language

J.B. Jackson: Everyday America

Wu Zhiqiang: Principles of Urban Planning

Wayne Attoe and Donn Logan: American Urban Architecture

Robert Buder: Where Futures Converge

Jane Jacobs: The Death and Life of Great

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