



SYLLABUS

TOWN FORM: THE PIAZZA

Instructor: Jenny Young

Language of Instruction: English

UO Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 40

VICENZA, ITALY

ARCH 407/507

TOWN FORM: THE PIAZZA

4 credits

The urban core of central and northern Italian cities will be the laboratory for this course, studying spatial characteristics of the town as a whole, and places of importance within. The focus of the course will be the study of the piazza. The course will consist of three components:

- Classes, readings and field outings with media assignments focused on excursion sites
- Individual media assignments, notebooks and essays
- Team projects in which students will investigate the piazza

MEDIA SKETCHBOOK | IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES ANALYZING TOWN FORM (28%)

Field excursions with sketching activities and class discussions will analyze the elements of town form in Rome, Firenze, Siena and Bologna, and then will focus on Vicenza.

PIAZZA STUDIES (individual) (24% of grade)

Over the course of the term each of you will do a series of piazza studies. These should take around 2 hours each and include notes as well as drawings. Each should be done in a facing two-page large format paper or in the town form large-format notebook. Each study will include a plan, at least one section/elevation, a perspective view and one detail study (a bay, a key monument, or other).

Four required piazza studies will be completed during the excursions of the first two weeks: Roma (1), Firenze (2), Siena (1) and Bologna (1). Each study should be labeled, dated and signed.

In Vicenza a set of teams will develop criteria for the evaluation of a successful piazza, based on the raw material collected from these field studies.

Once in Vicenza, 4 more piazza studies will be completed in Vicenza, Venice, Verona, Padova.

ANALYSIS OF THE PIAZZA (15% of grade)

Working in teams of 2-3, students will focus on one aspect of the piazza to analyze in greater depth. Each team will collect data, develop analytic drawings and take photographs during the field excursions in Rome, Firenze, Siena and Bologna. In Vicenza teams will use their observations and recorded field notes to do a comparative analysis that identifies criteria for a successful piazza. Teams will present to the class (digital format) for review and discussion.

FORM

<i>TEAM A: Dimensions</i>	<i>TEAM B: Spatial Dynamics</i>
<p>Plan shape, dimensions: length and width and volume – plan and sections, size in sf, in relation to population</p> <p>Proportions in section</p> <p>Location within town</p>	<p>Shape character with adjectives and metaphors</p> <p>Dynamics: axes, foci, things in the center or off-center, shifts, inflections placement of major buildings, focal elements, entrances and exits that impact the dynamics</p> <p>Symbolism, rituals, interpretation</p>

FABRIC

<i>TEAM C: Connections</i>	<i>TEAM D: Containment</i>
<p>Thresholds & gateways: number of entry points to and from the piazza character of entries (compression open) </p> <p>Connections/linkages to the larger fabric of the area of the neighborhood views in when approaching the piazza views out when leaving</p> <p>Relationship to topography – multiple levels feeding into the space</p>	<p>Enclosure of piazza as a room: strong sense of inside: amount of enclosure (percentage): plans (grain of fabric, size of lots/building widths) elevations of all sides with building heights</p> <p>Building edges – in section: topography, colonnades, cornices, balconies, steps</p> <p>Character of fabric: general character of surrounding buildings, materials palette, color, form ground plane material differentiation</p>

USE

<i>TEAM E: Patterns</i>	<i>TEAM F: Details</i>
<p>Flow of people and cars: pedestrian flow and cars routes and control invitations to linger invitations to linger - sitting spots door locations</p> <p>Distribution of use: shop fronts, cafes, restaurants, important functions - inventory of buildings uses in plan and elevation location and number of doors</p> <p>Kinds of users (old, children at play etc.)</p> <p>kinds of use markets, festivals</p> <p>Observations and photos, plans and sketches</p>	<p>Developed edges and boundaries, places to sit Something roughly in the middle Staircase as stage</p> <p>Paving patterns on the floor</p> <p>Trees for shading</p> <p>Kiosks lampposts urban furniture</p> <p>Symbols and memorials – history of the place in the details</p>

PIAZZA CASE STUDIES (30% of grade)

Working in a new set of teams of 2-3 (with members from each analysis category), you will apply the concepts developed in the first part of the term to the study of a major public space in one of the nearby towns of the Veneto. The cycle of work will include basic research and on-site research. For the final review, oral presentations will be made, supported by a final report in an integrated digital format.

REFLECTIONS (3% of grade)

- FINAL THOUGHTS ESSAY - Letter to the editor of the Vicenza newspaper.

READINGS – PHASE ONE

Texts (Lynch, Mayernik on Roma, Firenze and Siena, Lintner)

READINGS – PHASE TWO

Town Form Digital Sources:

Graves, Charles. "Historical Typologies of Urban Settings," *The Genealogy of Cities*, pp.1-21.

Bacon, Edmund, "The Structure of the Square," *The Design of Cities*, pp. 94-99.

Childs, Mark. *Squares* (Chapters 10-14 as separate files.)

Fusch, Richard. "The Piazza in Italian Urban Morphology," *Geographical Review*, Vol. 84, 1984.

Gatje, Robert F. *Great Public Squares, an Architect's Selection*. (squares in Roma, Firenze Siena + Pioneer Square and others)

Gibberd, *Town Design*. (examples and text in two files)

Kato, Akinori. *Plazas of Southern Europe* (four parts)

Lennard, Suzanne • Lennard, Suzanne H. Crowhurst and Henry L. *Genius of the European Square*. Carmel, CA: Gondolier Press, 2008.

Part 1: "Genius of the European Square," pp. 9-72. (in 3 parts) + Piazza San Marco

Part 3: "Dangers to the European Square," pp. 199-208 and "Principles for Designing a Multi-Functional European-Style Square," pp. 215-222

Example: "Piazza Il Campo, Siena," pp. 95-104

Mandolesi, Enrico and Alessandra Ferrero. *Piazza del Piceno*.

Moughtin. *Urban Design: Street and Square* (chapters 1, 2 and 4)

Wolfrum, Sophie, ed. *Squares: Urban Spaces in Europe*. Basel, Switzerland: Birkhauser, 2014.

Introduction

Squares – selected from Northern Italy

Squares - Rome

Zucker. *Town and Square*

Chapter 1: The Square in Space and Time

Chapter 2: The Medieval Town and Square – comprehensive history

Chapter 4: The Renaissance Town and Square – comprehensive history

General Cultural Digital Sources:

Italian Culturegram | Map of Italy | Historical map of Italy | Cooking guide