

RESHAPING THE CITY BY THE PUBLIC SPACE

Intentions

The image of the city is, in most cases, the image of its public space

This course aims to show the value of public space in the renovation project of the city. The public space is the social and functional space par excellence of the city. The streets, squares and parks give structure to buildings, facilities and community facilities of the city. The city project layout incorporates the city public spaces, but when the initial offer is low or in highly dense areas of the urban fabric, a greater allocation of public spaces is required. In other cases, it is necessary to improve or adapt the existing public space to new social and functional needs.

The public space in the reform of the city of Barcelona 1981_2011

The course uses the city of Barcelona and its growth forms as reference. The object of study are the public space projects in the city between 1980 and 2011. It is a set of very significant projects about public space, published and internationally awarded. The recent renown of the city, from both professional and academics points of view, is mainly due to these type of interventions. A comprehensive set of institutional publications includes the projects done in this period of time. This is a set of equity value projects, although 25 more years may still be needed for people to appreciate them enough. The main objective of the course is that students, analyse, visit, understand these public spaces recently developed in Barcelona.

Bibliography

BUSQUETS, Joan: Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City. Boston, Harvard University: Nicolodi, 2005.
First edition in Catalan, 1992

SOLÀ-MORALES, Manuel: Ten lessons on Barcelona: urbanistic episodes that have made the modern city.
Barcelona: Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya, Actar, 2008

RIBA: Royal Gold Medal from RIBA to Barcelona. The Journal of Architecture. Volume 4. Autumn 1999. page. 229

Syllabus

The course is organised with a set of classes and visits distributed to 66% and 33%, and is complemented with the realization of a comparative analysis of public spaces.

- Week 1 Urban formation and evolution of the city of Barcelona.
Forms of urban growth
- Week 2 The public space of the city.
Streets, squares, parks, gardens, itineraries
- Week 3 The elements of the public space project
Position, concept, scale, layout (structure), activities, perimeter, permeability, technology, identity, urbanization as heritage
- Week 4 Introduction to the public spaces of Barcelona 1981_2010
Period 1981-1994. The social space, the hard squares
Period 1994-2000. Green in the city, the urban landscape
Period 2000-2010. Ecology of free spaces

The intervention in the forms of urban growth

- Week 5 El Casc Antic
Visit 1 Casc Antic
- Week 6 L'Eixample
Visit 2 Eixample
- Week 7 Suburban growth
- Week 8 Drawing of alignments
Visit 3 Gràcia and Prosperitat
- Week 9 Polygons and unitary ordinations
The marginal urbanization
- Week 10 The large-scale intervention in the city
The reform of the Port
Open Barcelona to the Sea: The seafront.
- Week 11 The Rondes of Barcelona
- Week 12 The space of the big infrastructures
Visit 4 Port and Maritime promenades

Evaluation criteria

The comparative analysis of 8 public spaces allows to evaluate the acquired knowledge.