



AD2815 Public Places and Spaces 7.5 credits

Public Places and Spaces

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for AD2815 valid from Spring 2010

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Architecture

Specific prerequisites

120 p from architecture, landscape architecture or planning programs on graduate level.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

This course is an introduction to the concepts of public space and place in an inter-disciplinary perspective, focusing on the role of physical form in relation to the public life of the city. The course will give participants an insight into the social, cultural and political implications of public space as well as provide training in analysing, describing and responding architecturally to public spaces as a physical entity.

After completion the student will be able to:

- create an understanding and vocabulary of public spaces
- analyze public spaces in their cultural, urban and historical contexts
- discuss, criticize and/or motivate changes of existing public spaces
- shape, present and motivate proposals for public spaces

Course contents

The course will provide a more profound insight into the complexities of public space and the concept of place as imaginary and physical forms. Participants will receive a basic understanding of the discourse on public space as it is known in urban theory thereby being able to discern the potentials and limitations of space in architectural terms. Objects of study will be analyzed in their cultural, urban and historical context. Participants will gain a practical competence by performing design exercises and/or conceptual interventions.

Disposition

The learning method will be carried out through analysis of various public spaces in different city environments in the Stockholm area. The analysis will be performed by extended site observations, official aims documents, archive research concerning technical/ architectural drawings and historical documents. Emphasis will be put on the ability to understand and describe the material and social conditions of existing public spaces as a pre-requisite for the ability to propose transformed or new spatial forms. The work will be carried out in studios and individually. A two week analysis exercise will be carried out in small groups. The final project must be presented in a way that allows it to be judged by external reviewers. Lectures, literature studies and seminars will run parallel to the practical assignment and provide a theoretical or conceptual framework.

Course literature

Will be announced at Course Start.

Examination

- TEN1 - Examination, 7.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

80% attendance at lectures and active participation at seminars. Project review by teacher on at least two occasions. Completion and hand in of studio project and essay, individually.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.