

Interventions in Public Space: Class Plan

Lecturer: Beatriz Maturana (PhD Melbourne University)
Assistant: Anthony McInnery (PhD RMIT University)



Página | 1

Course summary

In the 21st Century, public space remains a highly contested aspect of the contemporary city. In addition to the designs of architects and the concepts of urbanism, the interventions in public space by performing and visual artists have played a critical role in manifesting societal questions, contradictions and challenges facing cities in Chile and in an increasingly urbanised planet. This program examines the main movements and theories materialised through creative urban interventions in Santiago and overseas.

Objectives

This course is designed to

1. Develop and apply knowledge of the theories and concepts of urban interventions through creative practice
2. Develop presentation, analytical and debating skills in the subject of urban interventions
3. Develop a familiarity with the city of Santiago through its interventions (art, architecture and urbanism)
4. Understanding the different scales of interventions: from temporary works to urban and landscape interventions
5. Strengthen a command of English in this subject area – spoken, written and listening
6. Develop the capacity to use a scientific, systemic and complex language, to defy the current dichotomic language that limits our comprehension of reality (*Congreso del Futuro*, 2019)
7. Apply the method of “appreciative enquire” as a method to understand the urban context and the ideas discussed in the subject.

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Methods

The teachers deliver this course through:

- Presenting cases about the creative practices employed in urban interventions
- Selecting readings of theories, concepts and works,
- Organising site visits and site analyses.
- Organising student debates, discussions and presentations

Página | 2

Assessment

This course is presented in English and each student will work in English and in the form of:

Tasks	% of total mark	Objectives
Students will keep a journal: The journal will contain a 150 – 250-word synopsis of the ideas in each of the 12 weekly readings. Each student will record in their journal an analysis of 2 nominated sites. The journal will also include a 500 – 700-word summary of all the material presented in the course as a way of establishing a position in relation to the role of urban interventions in the development of public space in the city.	30%	1,2,3,4,5,6
A group presentation on a nominated topic: A group of 2-3 students will make a presentation of 10-15 minutes each week that summarises the nominated reading. Each group will identify and present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the main ideas in the weekly reading• the method by which the ideas are substantiated• and, establish a <i>position</i> based on the reading. Participation in debates about concepts and practices. Students will work in groups to discuss the readings, interventions and presentations and to prepare for the debate.	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
A practical intervention in public space: will be developed, implemented and documented within the parameters set within a project brief provided. The result is assessed as a continuous process and not as a product.	30%	1,2,3,4,5,6

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General information and requirements

1. **Readings** – prior to each class every student is expected to have read the nominated text for that class. Every student will record his or her own reflection on each reading in a journal that will be submitted at the end of the semester

2. **Presentations** – at the beginning of the semester, each student will nominate or be nominated for a topic from the reading list to make a presentation. These presentations will be in groups of 2-3 people, involve images and be approximately 10-15 minutes long.

3. **Journal** - each student will maintain and compile a journal throughout the semester that includes: synopsis of weekly readings, reflexions, site analyses, critique of main ideas presented in the course and the establishment of a position.

4. **Participation** - each student is expected to participate in class discussion, debate, site visits and interventions.

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Beatriz C. Maturana Cossio (PhD architecture) is a lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU), University of Chile (UCH), with the department of History and Heritage. She is Adjunct Professor with RMIT School of Architecture and Urban Design (Australia).

She has lectured and lead studios in the subjects of architectural design, public art, and urban design theory and design methods at RMIT University, Monash University and the University of Melbourne (Australia). She has practiced for 17 years as an architect and urban designer with the State Government of Victoria (Australia) and private urban and housing developers in the same state, including *Delfin Lend Lease*. Her international development experience includes work for the Overseas Project Corporation of Victorian, the Planning Institute of Victoria in establishing a chapter in Bacau, East Timor and with the Overseas Services Bureau of Australia in Managua, Nicaragua, teaching, undertaking housing assessment for Habitat for Humanity and architectural design for Cantera, Centre for Popular Education and Communication.

Her academic and research interests are concerned with education and urban sustainability (focus on culture and heritage). Beatriz is the founder of the not for profit organisation, United Nations NGO *Architects for Peace.org*

Anthony McInnery (PhD architecture) is a visual artist, designer and academic as fellow at the University of Newcastle (Australia) and member of the RMIT Centre for Art, Society and Transformation (CAST). McInnery has been commissioned to create temporary public artworks for the City of Melbourne - Environment Commissions and Laneway Commissions - and to create permanent works as part of the VicHealth art and environment scheme. He is interested in the contemporary forms and uses of the street, the plaza and the park. Between 2004 and 2016 he was coordinator, lecturer and academic in the RMIT University Master of Art, Art in Public Space program. In 2016 he was selected to exhibit at the National Museum Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna in Santiago, Chile with his investigation of the Mapocho River through temporary art. He has over 10 years' experience working in the field of cultural development and art in public space with municipal government throughout metropolitan Melbourne, Australia. He has published and presented in various books, workshops, conferences and studios in Australia, United States, Asia, Latin America and Europe.