

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
College of Fine and Applied Arts
School of Architecture
Graduate Program in Architecture

ARCH-574

MANGE NEGOTIATIONS

Lecturers: Marcos Barinas Uribe

Words: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban agglomerations, Tropics, Mangrove, Local-global, Colonialism and neocolonialism.

Focus area: Coastal cities in Tropical West Africa.

Region: Lagos-Abdijan

Site: Lagos, Nigeria

Study cases: Lagos-Abdijan, Miami, Recife, Port of Spain, New Orleans, Panama-Colón.

Thematic: We will target the risks of declining mangrove ecosystems in West-Central Africa, its cultural, economic and political implications. We will study its relevance for architecture design, its social pertinence and its environmental responsibility.

Introduction: The studies of coastal cities have been traditionally conditioned to a Eurocentric vision of space, where the importance of the metropolis and its infrastructure is imposed over the singularities of the people's relationship with landscape and nature. Coastal cities in the tropics have also been a laboratory of climate adaptation for building and social space. The sea is an essential part of life for tropical communities, providing vital ecosystem services to urban communities. The coastal natural ecosystem is also a major inspiration for literature, music and cultural events. However, it is often severely impacted by industries that impulse urban growth, like tourism, trade and travel.

The mangrove forest is a very important environmental ecosystem for the future, but it is also a space of political resistance. It is the perfect expression of Black Atlantic Modernism: Transgressive, transatlantic, inclusive, always renovating itself through resistance; a social ecumene where culture is not rooted in the past nor floating away to the future. This landscape has been food for thought to contemporary cultural manifestations like Recife's Mangebeat, Port of Spain's Soca and New Orleans' Bounce. However, mangroves are one of the most threatened habitats on earth, with an annual loss outpacing other tropical rainforests. Mangrove in Africa are rapidly declining, it is estimated that an additional 25% will be lost by 2025 due to rapid development in coastal cities.

The semester is subdivided in two sections:

Research module and site analysis:

Topics:

Green: Coastal ecosystems and sustainability.

Blue: Global economics, trade and tourism.

Orange: Cultural industries and creative economies.

Gray: City life and urban footprint.

Pink: Vulnerability and inequality.

Brown: Materials, tectonics and circular economies.

The assigned themes will give us a direction into the discussion of many fundamental concerns on the ecosystems of West African coastal cities. The students will read, research, discuss and synthesize on the six topics selected. We will discuss on artificiality and authenticity, values and xxx, strengths and vulnerabilities. Parallel to the lectures and readings the students will produce a collaborative conceptual map supported on the ongoing conclusions of the thematic module.

We will explore the use of a new tool of communication and collaboration imposed to us by the pandemic: the collaborative whiteboard. This medium inverts the technicality of drawing challenging our abilities as designers to map, model, and represent the environment within the aesthetics of remote collaboration.

Students will be able to:

- _ Collect and synthesize project-related data of different scales.
- _ Learn about sustainable and green design techniques.
- _ Develop leadership and collaborative skills in team settings and produce independent conclusions.
- _ Synthesize

All students will be required to:

- 1-Moderate a discussion session and prepare a conclusion poster in groups of two or three.
- 3-Participate in a collaborative conceptual map.
- 4-Develop a conceptual site analysis.

Practical module and project:

A site in Lagos waterfront will be selected for the analysis and final project. The students will individually develop a program and define a scope and scale for their projects. At the end of the course, students should be able to translate an idea into an architectural program addressing the intentions and consequences behind Students should also be able to engage with an increasing level of design-research through iterative studies and move fluidly between different modes and scales of design.

students will be able to:

- _ Apply the interdisciplinary research process to architecture design problems in complex urban landscape settings.
- _ Gain advance knowledge in the design of public spaces, open spaces, streetscapes and the way they interact with architecture design.
- _ Work on community design issues in existing neighborhoods.
- _ Evaluate environmentally sound sustainable and green design techniques.

All students will be required to:

- 1-Propose a conceptual plan and program for the selected site.
- 2-Submit a final project for the selected site and program.

Technology:

We will make use of a Hy-Flex online delivery option where students will be able to interact with the instructor and peers, both on synchronous and asynchronous mode. We will make use of three online resources: **Blackboard** for Operational and administrative logistics, project submissions and evaluations; **Conceptboard** for Asynchronous online meetings, crits and corrections; and **ZOOM** for Synchronous meetings and lectures.

Teaching methods:

Lectures & Presentations: Lectures and presentations, relevant to architecture design, urban landscape, community revitalization from multidisciplinary fields will be given throughout the semester. Attendance to relevant lectures from the UIUC Lecture series, may be required as an assignment outside the class time.

Research and reading assignments: Individual or team research assignments will be given for each topic specified in order to review fundamental. Based on the topic of the assignment each team of students will be required to prepare a presentation, and write a report. At least one reading assignment will be assigned every week, during the first module of the class. Students will be required to summarize the conclusion and produce a poster on Conceptboard of the topics that were assigned to them.

Map Making:

Project: The course will include one studio project for the whole semester. The project will make use of the research process to develop a program, and will require a series of deliverables (plans, sections, perspectives, posters, models, and etc.). Students are encouraged to feel free to elaborate their own architectural programs according to the interests they have develop during the first module of the course, but will be required to be presented and approved by the class.

Evaluation:

The first term will be evaluated with a 40% of the final grade. The second term will be evaluated with a 40% for the final project process and 20% for presentation quality.

Suggested readings:

Simon Garfield. **On the Map. The World Takes Shape.**

Gray:

Richard Sennet. **Planning purified cities.**

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovich. **The History of African Cities South of the Sahara. African Urbanization? 3-12**

BLUE:

Ulf Hannerz. **Transnational connections. Introduction : Nigerian Kung Fu, Manhattan Fatwa.** London and New York : Routledge; 1996

Alain Corbin. **The Lure of the Sea: The Discovery of the Seaside in the Western World, 1750-1840.**

Nandita Batra and Vartan p. Messier. **The Multitudinous Seas: Matter and Metaphor. Introduction.**

The state of African Cities 2020: The Geography of Africa's investments.

GREEN:

Donato, D., Kauffman, J., Murdiyarsa, D. et al. **Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics.** Nature Geosci 4, 293–297 (2011).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/ngeo1123>

Ramachandran, Ramesh, et al. **The Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone: Past, present and future.**

ORANGE:

Paul Michael Sneed. **The Coexistentialism of Chico Science and Brazil's Manguebeat**

Ivan Duque, Felipe Restrepo. **The Orange Economy: An Infinite Opportunity**

BROWN:

The state of African Cities 2014: Re-imagining sustainable urban transitions.

Resources:

<http://www.mangrovealliance.org/mangrove-forests/>

<https://www.thebluecarboninitiative.org/news/2015/3/10/video-highlights-nasa-and-mangroves>

<https://www.citypopulation.de/Africa.html>

<https://mangroveactionproject.org/>

<https://blogs.iadb.org/ciudades-sostenibles/en/openstreetmap-extraction-tool-generating-neighborhood-level-maps/>

<https://earthengine.google.com/>