

3 Credits

Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:45 P.M.

CCB 1001

Nadia M. Anderson

OVERVIEW:

In his seminal essay “The Right to the City,” Henri Lefebvre defines this idea as a “demand... for a transformed and renewed access to urban life” (Lefebvre, 1996). In today’s world of global capitalism, this rights is exercised by an increasingly smaller economic elite and consumption and waste are the norm.

The premise of this course is that architecture and urban design transfer social values into the physical fabric of the built environment. While conventional practice as a “service” profession produces spaces that reflect the dominant values of capitalist development, design has the capacity to be a proactive force in creating equity and there are a growing number of design and art practice that strive for values of inclusivity and diversity.

This semester we will specifically examine and test practices that engage issues of materiality and the circular economy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Weekly readings and discussion:** The first 1/3 of the course will focus on theoretical readings with an emphasis on Lefebvre’s *Production of Space* and “The Right to the City” as well as other related writings.
-
- **Research presentations:** The second 1/3 of the course will consist of presentations by students on practitioners whose work embodies the theories previously discussed. Students giving presentations will select readings and lead discussions following visual/verbal presentations.
-
- **Activist project:** Throughout the semester, we will explore how materiality can be a focus for activist practice. We will specifically develop projects that recycle plastic bags. During the last 1/3 of the semester, individual studies will be combined to create a class public space installation. Possible partners for this project include Envision Charlotte, AIA Charlotte, BOOM, and various neighborhood

For more information about the class, please feel free to contact Nadia at nander35@uncc.edu.



Above: *Plastic Island by Out of Ocean.*



Left: *Plastic Wedding Dress by Claire Chirgott.*

Below: *Plastic roof tile collage by Kaysey Raper.*

