The development of cities as social, cultural and economic entities has gone hand-in-hand with the development of characteristic building types that have enabled private and public institutions to function and contribute to the complexity and varied life of the city. Urban buildings have always embodied cultural ideas along with functional organization, and have changed over time in ways that have mirrored other changes in society.

The last 200 years have seen a proliferation of new and transformed building types connected with the growth of industrial capitalism and associated social change. Now, we are experiencing further changes connected to globalization, the emergence of the "information economy," and the post-pandemic city. With these changes, it is essential to look at the urban building in ways that can help us understand the importance of historical tradition as well as the need for a pragmatic approach to the development of new types and forms.

The purpose of this course is to develop understandings of urban buildings as meaningful and functional artifacts, and of the relationship between the building and the city. The course will examine several characteristic types, looking at basic configurations, meaning, functional order, and the buildings' contributions to the economic, social and formal aspects of cities. Each type will be looked at through its historical and technological development, exemplary contemporary examples, and future prospects. The examples will be worldwide, including American and European architecture, as well as architecture in the "Global South." This course will provide both a general historical and cultural background for students interested in the architecture of cities, as well as specific understandings that will be helpful in the design studio.

The building types to be examined have been chosen because of their fundamental differences in basic configuration, and the ability for that difference to help illustrate both basic theory and the rich variety of buildings that cities embody. The emphasis will be on the ordinary buildings of daily life.

The emphasis in the instructors' presentations will be on analytical, historical and contemporary material; the emphasis in the student projects will be on contemporary and future buildings and hybrid building types, referring to the historical and analytical content.

Student projects will incorporate conceptual design speculations in addition to documentary research. These speculations may be connected to studio projects, but this is not required.

Tentative topics:

- TYPE: CONFIGURATION, MEANING AND FUNCTION
- BUILDINGS AND WAYS OF SEEING CITIES
- TOWN HALLS; MARKETS AND RETAIL STORES
- DWELLINGS I
- DWELLINGS II
- BUILDINGS FOR PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
- OFFICE BUILDINGS AND THEIR EVOLUTION
- STATIONS, TERMINALS AND AIRPORTS
- NEW HYBRID BUILDINGS
- BUILDINGS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Course format and requirements. Sessions will include presentations by the instructor, discussions of readings, short case studies by students. Class sessions in the second half of the term will include interim presentations of term projects dealing with a contemporary building type. Graduate students who will be fulfilling requirements for specializations will focus on a topic connected to that specialization. Students will be required to undertake short case studies as well as a term project.

Readings. Required readings include selections from three books: Thomas Markus, Buildings and Power; Mark Swenarton, Cook's Camden: The Making of Modern Housing; and Philip Steadman, Building Types and Built Forms. Other readings will include selections from authors such as Michel Foucault, Robin Evans, Henri Lefebvre, Bill Hillier, Adrian Forty, M.R.G. Conzen, Philippe Panerai, Jeremy Whitehand, Karl Kropf, Vitor Oliveira and others. All readings will be available on the course Canvas site and/or in the Design Library.

Questions? hdavis@uoregon.edu