



ARCH 490/690, Sec. 002: Design of the Garden

Credits 3 (A Writing Intensive course)

Instructor Pu Miao, Ph.D.

Place Room 211, School of Architecture **Time** Wednesday 4:00-6:30 am, Fall 2009

While landscaping is an important component of the man-made environment, there has been a lack of design theory to cover the field. Students tend to either imitate particular precedents or, for the best, to rely on recipes based on stereotyped garden "schools" (such as the Italian garden, the Islamic garden, etc.). These approaches limit creativity and handicap a better integration with the local context. This seminar will explore the "common structures" of the garden, or design patterns shared by all kinds of gardens in different eras and geographic regions. The course will provide students with ready-to-use and systematic design techniques in their landscape projects. It will also help students to acquire analytical skills in defining new design patterns on their own. In addition, students will learn the general development of landscape design theories in the 20th century.

Course Organization

The course will begin with the theoretical foundation, the design patterns and the investigation methods involved. Then numerous case studies of various prominent gardens will be presented to illustrate the design patterns, aided by a rich collection of slides shot on site, almost step by step, by the instructor himself. The examination emphasizes on the more architectural" means in shaping a garden, such as the spatial structure, lighting, symbolic and psychologic meanings of the main types of materials used in a garden.

The seminar will heavily rely on students' participation in both classroom discussion and in presenting their own research which will be interposed with the instructor's lectures.

Class Requirements

Students should participate classes, actively contribute to the discussions, and present one garden analysis and one reading report.

Prerequisites None. Lower division students are welcome. Bring to class your intellectual curiosity.