

AR-476

**UE U : Cartography**

Mações Costa Bárbara

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Opt.
Mob. AR	H	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	4
Withdrawal Session	Unauthorized Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	120h
Weeks	12
<b>Hours</b>	<b>4 weekly</b>
Courses	3 weekly
Exercises	1 weekly

**Number of positions**

**It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.**

**Remark**

Inscription faite par la section

**Summary**

This course teaches a cartographic method for reading and representing systems of environmental relations in architecture.

**Content**

The ongoing ecological crisis reframes the common binary opposition between architecture and nature. The environment is not a scenery or a container of natural resources, and architecture is not a collection of objects floating in a vacuum. Buildings and landscapes construct each other dialectically.

Maps are technologies of land occupation, management and subdivision. They shape scientific hypotheses, organize political and military power, limit the boundaries of private property, and reflect mental conceptions about human and non-human nature. Throughout Western modernity, land surveys mediated the capitalist production of environment, its uneven geographies, and the global distribution of accumulation and dispossession.

Lingering in the 'trauma' of modernist 'totalitarianisms', architecture has provided little more than isolated solutions for the environmental question, often stated in purely technological or aesthetic terms. Expanding commodification to the deepest recesses of life, capitalism has largely subsumed spatial production to the realization of profit, and architecture to the creation of self-referential objects. In reaction to this, UE U: Cartography proposes a mapping methodology for reembedding buildings in their environments.

The main assignment of this course will be to map an existing housing project. This map should reveal the territorial structures, social relations, and ideological constructs mediated by that building, seen as an environmental totality.

**Sessions**

(subject to changes due to the coronavirus pandemic)

**1\_24/09: From Architectural Objects to Environmental Relations**

*A critique of formal autonomy, towards an architecture of environmental relations.*

**2\_01/10: Architecture and Nature, a Dialectic**

*The capitalist contradiction of habitation vs. improvement.*

**3\_08/10: Cartography and the Inside/Outside Divide***Mapping thresholds in the longue durée.***4\_15/10: Habitat and Ecological Threshold***The Post-War Contextualism debate in Britain, from the socialist utopian garden cities to Allison and Peter Smithson and Team X.***5\_22/10: Ambiente and Historical Type***The Post-War Contextualism debate in Italy, from neorealism and organicism to Aldo Rossi's socialist realism.***6\_29/10: Social Condensers and Proletarian Islands***The Soviet urban experiment and the Portuguese Revolution: Álvaro Siza's proletarian islands.***7\_05/11: Mid-term Pin-up****8\_12/11: Territory and Production***Case study Bairro da Malagueira***9\_19/11: Domesticity and Reproduction***Case study Bairro da Malagueira***10\_26/11: Wilderness and Expropriation***Case study Bairro da Malagueira***11\_03/12: Mapping Environmental Relations***Conclusion and round-table discussion***12\_10/12: Final Pin-up****Keywords**

Cartography, architecture, historical and geographical materialism, environmental aesthetics, political ecology.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Identify territorial figures from hierarchies of landscape systems.
- Formalize environmental totalities from the selection of those figures.
- Critique the politics of historically specific modes of environmental production.

**Teaching methods**

Theoretical content will be provided through a series of lectures, and practical assignments will be assisted by weekly desk critiques and intermediate reviews. Classes will occasionally include the close reading of historical maps and the analysis of texts and films on cartography, landscape and environmental politics. Special focus will be given to hand drawing, and AI, CAD and GIS assistance may happen upon request. The final submittal will consist of all the work produced during the semester.

**Assessment methods**

Continuous assessment.

Intermediate exercises and desk critiques: 40% of grade.

Review of final work: 60% of grade.

**Supervision**

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	No
Forum	No

**Resources**

## Bibliography

- AURELI, Pier Vittorio, "Appropriation, Subdivision, Abstraction: A Political History of the Urban Grid" in *Log 44* (Fall 2018): 139-167.
- BLOMLEY, Nicholas, "Law, Property, and the Geography of Violence: The Frontier, the Survey, and the Grid" in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 93:1 (2003): 121-141.
- CORBOZ, André, *Le Territoire Comme Palimpseste et Autres Essais*. Paris: Les Éditions de L'Imprimeur, 2001.
- ELDEN, Stuart, "Land, terrain, territory" in *Progress in Human Geography* 34 (2010): 799-817.
- ESCOLAR, Marcelo, "Exploration, Cartography And Modernization" in BRENNER, Neil et al. (eds.), *State/Space: A Reader*. Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2003, 49-50.
- GREGOTTI, Vittorio. "The Form of the Territory" in *OASE* 80 (2009): 7-22.
- HARVEY, David, *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*. Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 1996.
- SHOAT, Ella, "Imagining Terra Incognita: The Disciplinary Gaze of Empire" in *Public Culture* 3:2 (1991): 44-45.

Further bibliography will be provided on a class basis via Moodle.

## Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Land, terrain, territory / Elden](#)
- [Le territoire comme palimpseste / Corboz](#)
- [The Form of the Territory / Gregotti](#). In *OASE*, 80 (2009), 7-22
- [Law, Property, and the Geography of Violence / Blomley](#)
- [Exploration, Cartography And Modernization / Escolar](#)
- [Appropriation, Subdivision, Abstraction / Aureli](#). In *Log 44* (2018), 139-167
- [Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference / Harvey](#)

## Websites

- <http://ueucartography.tumblr.com/>

## Moodle Link

- <https://moodle.epfl.ch/enrol/index.php?id=14796>