



*Public Meeting: Richmond Chamberlayn VUU Planning Process, Urban Design Associates*

### **48-707: MUD Graduate Seminar 1**

**Units: 3**

**Instructor: Paul Ostergaard, FAIA**

This MUD Graduate Seminar introduces students to the practice of urban design. Urban design has only recently emerged as an independent design discipline and is urgently needed in a world of rapidly growing cities and urbanized regions. Cities are complex artifacts and require urban designers to lead and manage teams of professionals with many different skill sets. Urban design is commonly practiced by architects, landscape architects and planners trained to engage communities in the planning process. These skills enable the urban designer to examine and understand the structure of the city, recognize its strengths and weaknesses, and build consensus around creative visions for the future.

Six elements of practice will be examined including multi-disciplinary teams, public participation, engagement of major stakeholders, context and heritage, design communication, and implementation tools. At the end of the seminar, students will know how to assemble and coordinate a multi-disciplinary planning team, summarize key issues of an urban design project, conduct focus group meetings and public meetings, communicate design alternatives, facilitate consensus building, prepare an outline scope of work for an urban design project, and understand urban design in the broader context of urban development.