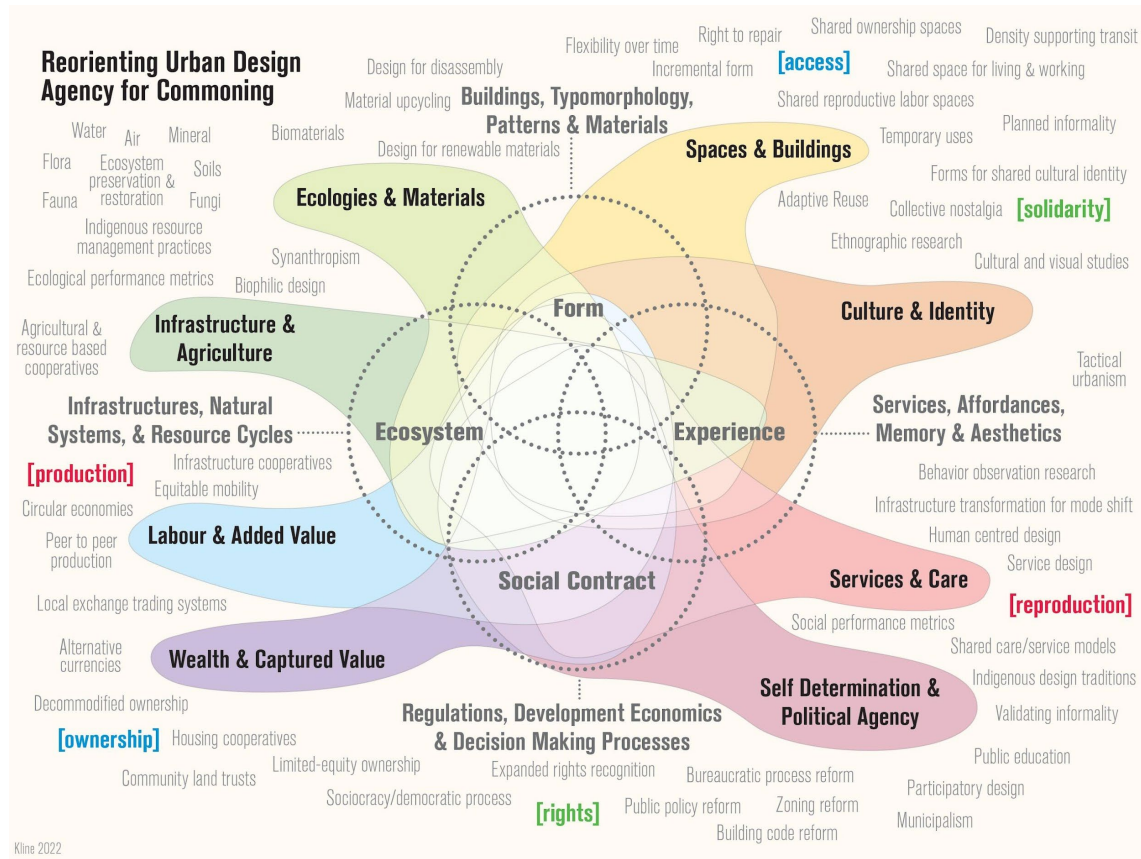




Carnegie Mellon University

School of Architecture  
College of Fine Arts, CFA 201  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Reorienting Urban Design Agency for Commoning, Jonathan Kline

## 48-740: Urban Design Methods and Theory

Units: 9

Instructor: Jonathan Kline

The course explores core urban design methods and theories organized into three themes intended to give students a foundational understanding of urban design, examine key critiques of urbanization, and explore emerging modes of design agency. The first module surveys key normative theories and methods of understanding and intervening in urban processes in relation to four broad themes: city as form, city as experience, city as ecosystem, and city as social contract. The second section explores a range of critiques of the contemporary urbanization process through a variety of lenses including Marxism, ecology, feminism, and posthumanism, drawing on readings both internal and external to the discipline. The final module interrogates urban design's capacity to shape cities in response to these critiques. This section uses theories of commoning and transition design as a broad emergent framework for re-organizing design agency and re-framing urban design methods. The course meets once a week and assignments include weekly readings, actively participating in weekly seminar discussions, and two projects intended to relate the theories and methods being discussed. This is a required seminar course for the Master of Urban Design program and a co-requisite course for the Commoning the City ASO studio.