Gardens are... Buildings
A Garden’s Role in Unprecedented Times

LARC 504 sec 001 / LARC 505 sec 001
Fall 2020 I 9 Credit I Vertical Studio

Landscape Architecture Program - School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture - University of British Columbia
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Course Overview
The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 is putting pressure on cities throughout the world to rethink how they should develop and operate. This studio examines how gardens have been and how they should continue to be a significant element within the urban fabric of cities. It discusses the role of gardens today and examines the public health impact of gardens and access to urban green space. The studio also explores the idea that gardens should be designed in order to create a more multi-sensorial experience so that the health, ecological, social and other benefits can be most effective.

This studio is based on a journal article the instructor co-authored and which will be published in September 2020 for this studio called Gardens are... Buildings, where the authors ask the following questions: (1) What role does a garden have today in this unprecedented pandemic? (2) How will this pandemic alter opinions on access to local gardens and parks? (3) How can planners and designers help to provide more gardens and greenspace in cities to help to mitigate the effects during and after the COVID-19 crisis and in future crises?

The instructor developed a broad planning matrix which supports urban planners and designers in the integration of gardens as part of their initial building policies and design approach. This matrix can be applied worldwide. The matrix uses garden activities as a basis to determine garden design and use in conjunction with building typologies, for example, a hospital, a three-story housing, a factory or a museum. This studio applies this matrix at three scales: 1) garden 2) urban block and 3) urban scale. The participants of the studio select a site where they reside for the individual phase. For the team phases, the urban block and urban scale site selection will be by group decision with the instructor’s support. The studio will examine how garden design can alter the spatial approach to designing buildings, urban blocks and cities, and try to prove that Gardens are... Buildings and not an afterthought after the architectural space has been determined.

Course Format
The studio has three design phases:

**Phase 1 (Week 1 – 5) Individual Garden Design for One Selected Building Typology**
Assign. 1 Garden Activity Analysis **Assign. 2** Building Typologies & Garden Activities **Assign. 3** Garden Designs for Different Buildings

**Phase 2 (Week 6 – 8) Small Teams Urban Block Garden Designs for Multiple Building Typologies**
Assign. 4 Urban Block Garden Activity Analysis **Assign. 5** Urban Block Garden Design Strategies

**Phase 3 (Week 9 – 13) Larger Teams Urban Scale Garden Designs for Multiple Building Typologies**
Assign. 6 Urban Scale Garden Activity Analysis **Assign. 7** Urban Scale Garden Design Strategies

The difference of this studio to other studio practice and set up is the reverse order of design, from small (garden) to larger (urban) instead of large down to small scale. To learn to read landscape architecture scale, it is best to start at site - garden scale - a familiar scale, before the larger urban scale. Reason being that site - garden scale - everyone has experienced, while larger urban scale is not easy to grasp when learning to design the environment. As the studio is a hypothetical online exercise, the workload is also reversed with the intensive individual design of this studio placed at the beginning of the semester when students are not stressed with multiple hand ins for other courses such as GP.