

Re-Getting cities off the ground: the shrinking city

“Shrinking city is a densely populated urban area with a minimum population of 10,000 residents that has faced population losses in large parts for more than two years and is undergoing economic transformations with some symptoms of a structural crisis.”

“In the 21st century, the historically unique epoch of growth that began with industrialization 200 years ago will come to an end. In particular, climate change, dwindling fossil sources of energy, demographic aging, and rationalization in the service industry will lead to new forms of urban shrinking and a marked increase in the number of shrinking cities.”

How will the climate change and the global warming most likely impact the shaping of cities? What are established and emerging theories and spheres of urban actions important to addressing these perplexing questions? If the notion of sustainability in architecture is firmly being implanted to the main stream of architecture theory and practice today, what are sustainable urbanism and its potential? What is landscape urbanism? What role should urban designers play in all these? As the real cost of energy production and consumption is becoming more and more apparent, is there a way in which the existing fabric of the cities that already have lost population get re-evaluated for new urban life style?

“Many of the world’s cities are shrinking, and some urban planners say that’s a great opportunity to redesign and re-green urban spaces. Forget smart growth. The new trend is *smart decline*.”

This graduate seminar in theory of urban settlements is an interdisciplinary course. It is concerned with “settlement pattern”, in the broadest sense, its origin, development, morphology, structure/function and relationships to the cultural and socio-economic forces that produced it. This seminar will focus on the phenomenon of shrinking cities as a main issue facing cities today.

As a part of SUNE initiative, the course is to fulfill its intellectual domain requirements based on a broad education, an interdisciplinary approach and a global perspective.

