

Spring 2010

Buffalo Niagara By Design

Professor Robert G. Shibley

PD 586 Registration #490319/ ARC 590 SHI Registration #028886/ -121 Cook M 5:00 – 7:40 PM

How are cities and regions designed? Who decides what should be done and how do they decide? When do plans become design and when does design inform future plans?

The Buffalo Niagara region is at a critical crossroads in development. Western New York in particular will either share in the dynamics of population growth in the US that will add 150 million people to the over 300 million people now in the US by the year 2050, or we will again be left behind. Buffalo-Niagara by Design will explore the planning and design documents developed for the region aimed at revitalizing the economy, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment for future generations.

Specifically the goals are as follows. Students at the conclusion of the class will:

1. be aware of the range of plans in various stages of implementation in the Buffalo Niagara Region. For the purposes of the course, the region will be made up of four types of boundary conditions: cross border, western New York, municipal, and districts/ neighborhoods.
2. be able to describe **who** makes such plans, **how** they are made, and **why** they are made.
3. develop a critical capacity to evaluate such plans from the standpoint of the opportunities and challenges in our region and of the theories of placemaking.¹
4. derive first principles imbedded in the planning framework for the region and illustrate them with text and graphics from the plan documents reviewed.



¹ Schneekloth, L. and Shibley, R (1995) *Placemaking: The Art and Practice of Building Communities*, John Wiley & Sons, NY:NY. and "Placemaking: A Democratic Project" in Menton, Michael et al. Editors, *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*, Theme Issue, *Reconstruction 5.3 Rhetorics of Place, Reconstructing Media*, Spring 2005 (<http://www.reconstruction.ws/053/contents.shtml>).