



Course Name – Standards, Standardization, and Private Life

Course Code – ARCH-URBD-COMD-6010

Credits- 6

Faculty Name – Priya Gupta

Faculty Biography (maximum three to four sentences) –

I have over 15 years of experience across architectural practice in Delhi, Bangalore, and Chandigarh, and teaching at institutions including CCA Chandigarh and CEPT University, Ahmedabad. My doctoral research at CEPT University examined the evolution of building controls and their impact on private row houses, situating this inquiry within broader questions of architectural history to understand standardization as a form of design history, tracing how regulatory frameworks and built forms co-evolve over time. Having presented this work at platforms such as the DOCOMOMO, the Design History Society, IIT Bhilai, and the CEPT Symposium, my research continues to explore Chandigarh's everyday urbanism through a revisionist lens. I have taught courses in modern architecture, design theory, urban history, art and architecture, sustainability, and design studios, focusing on analytical thinking, collaborative, and process-based learning.

Course Description-

Regulations often appear distant, complex, and at times arbitrary. From the standardization of making to building controls, everyday private life and its thresholds to the public are deeply shaped by such frameworks. Why do setbacks exist? How did everyday elements become so standardized?

This studio begins by unpacking these questions through the standardization of architectural elements and everyday objects that emerged with industrialization. It traces how the design and use of domestic space are shaped by systems of measurement, repetition, and regulation (from modernity to the present). This will be elaborated through the spectrum between standards and standardization, through objects and buildings, through benchmarks, regulations, and controls, and will examine some of the histories, legalities, and their impacts on society and culture. Students will identify cases of standardization in everyday objects and develop a short analytical essay.

The inquiry then shifts to regulatory frameworks—building bye-laws, zoning, and development controls (including emerging approaches such as Form-Based Codes) and their impact on the design of the house, patterns of space use, and the making of the street. The studio also enquires into the façade as a critical interface between private ownership and the public realm, where regulations often attempt to shape the “street picture.” Using select cases, including Chandigarh's private row houses, the studio examines the tension between prescribed rules, built and lived reality. Students will analyse and decode a

specific set of regulations through documenting patterns of standardization alongside lived adaptations, encroachments, and everyday modifications (incremental change, extensions, and subversions). Rather than designing buildings alone, the studio positions students to rethink the systems that shape them, asking: if regulations shape architecture, how can architects move beyond compliance to reimagine standards and regulations as frameworks responsive to everyday life and use? Ultimately, the students will develop, write, and draw alternative regulatory frameworks that respond to contemporary concerns of livability and sustainability.

Prerequisites- 3rd Year and above (B.Arch / JAAP)

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading –

Sr. No.	Name of the Assignment	Weightage %
1	Essay - Standardization of Making (object, history, culture) <i>Criteria - Understanding of standardization as a process of making; ability to relate object, history, and cultural use; clarity of argument and use of relevant references.</i>	10%
2	Documentation and Critical Analysis - Atlas of Subversions <i>Criteria - Ability to document regulations and everyday modifications; clarity and rigor of drawings, mappings, and analytical diagrams; depth of analysis in identifying the gap between rule and lived reality.</i>	15%
3	Developing Schematic Frameworks of Regulations <i>Criteria - Clarity and logic of proposed rules; ability to translate analysis into spatial and regulatory propositions; integration of drawing and writing as tools of rule-making; responsiveness to everyday use, livability, and context.</i>	25%
TOTAL INTERNAL WEIGHTAGE %		50%
TOTAL EXTERNAL WEIGHTAGE %		50%
NOTES:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The external evaluation may be conducted in the form of a viva / jury or a written paper. B.Arch./JAAP Core courses need to follow the 50-50 INTERNAL-EXTERNAL weightage structure. 		

Learning Outcomes

LO1 Understand architectural standardization and regulatory frameworks as historically and culturally situated processes
LO2 Analyse the relationships between standards, regulations, and lived spatial practices
LO3 Decode regulatory systems through drawings, mappings, and diagrams
LO4 Document and evaluate patterns of standardization, adaptation, and spatial negotiation revealed through mapping and field-based inquiry
LO5 Develop regulatory frameworks responsive to context, climate, and everyday spatial practices.

References

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