

## COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

This course is supported by a grant from the UO Global Studies Institute

# LandTalk

## *The architecture and urbanism of a planet in stress*

Research and documentation of spatial experiences of rupture and change resulting from climate change, conflict and social injustice

### Architecture 407/507

Winter 2024 • 2 credits, graded or P/NP • room TBA

#### Instructors:

**Howard Davis**, Professor of Architecture, College of Design  
**Erik Steiner**, Director, InfoGraphics Lab, College of Arts and Sciences  
**Maksym Rokmaniko**, Center for Spatial Technologies, Ukraine

This unconventional seminar is offered in connection with a public lecture and ten-day visit of **Maksym Rokmaniko**, a Ukrainian architect who is a recent graduate of the Department of Architecture and now the principal of a firm, the Center for Spatial Technologies ([www.spatialtech.info](http://www.spatialtech.info)), that is documenting the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In the seminar, students will carry out a narrative design project that will use the methods of a “spatial interview” to document how people experience places through the lens of current stressors in our region such as climate change, conflict, and social injustice. Each student or small groups of students will identify a particular place in which such stressors are evident, and conduct interviews to document how the place was physically affected and people’s experience of it. In this way, the large complex forces that are changing our world will be examined at the human scale in everyday environments through the words and actions of actual people, and documentary evidence in the form of maps, photographs, drawings and historic documents.

This two-credit seminar is designed to appeal to students from a wide range of majors at the UO, as it grapples with our relationship to a changing natural and built landscape. It may be of particular interest to students in the College of Design, School of Journalism and Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Law.

#### Unconventional Schedule

The seminar will involve an unconventional schedule, as follows:

**Wednesday, January 24th**, 4pm-6pm: Attendance at the public lecture of Mr. Rokmaniko

**Friday, January 26th**, 9am-12pm: Workshop #1 with Instructors and Mr. Rokmaniko

**Monday, January 29th**, 9am-12pm: Workshop #2 with Instructors and Mr. Rokmaniko

**Wednesday, January 31th**, 9am-12pm: Workshop #3 with Instructors and Mr. Rokmaniko

**Monday, February 12th**, 9am-12pm: Workshop #4 with Instructors

*Individual meetings with instructors as necessary*

**Finals Week:** Final Project Showcase (exhibition of student projects)

*Wednesday, January 24th*

## Public Lecture


**Maksym Rokmaniko**, Director of the Center for Spatial Technologies (CST), an innovative office based in Kyiv, Ukraine. CST has been carrying out detailed work on the historical geography of two overlapping and convergent atrocities in Ukraine separated by 80 years: the murder and mass burial of about a hundred thousand people at the site of Babyn Yar by the Nazis and USSR, and recently the Russian invasion of Ukraine and bombing of a TV tower at the same Babyn Yar site. The work, some of it done in collaboration with Forensic Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London, involves detailed documentary research, cartography and visual representation, intended to counteract propaganda and reveal, as much as possible, the facts about the atrocities carried out first by the Nazis and later in the Russian quest to re-absorb Ukraine under Russian rule.

## Workshops

A series of workshops will follow the lecture, led by the two instructors and Mr. Rokmaniko, stressing techniques of research and documentation, involving multiple, overlapping methods of documentary evidence, historical photographs and film, and cartography. Howard Davis will talk about urban research conducted at the small scale of individual buildings, involving neighborhoods of mixed functions in London, Guangzhou (China), and Portland, investigating how the city and its buildings may support people at the lower rungs of the economic ladder. These investigations involved interviews, building analysis and mapping. Erik Steiner will share his work visualizing the spatiality of the Holocaust and environmental change, including the development of the LandTalk website (an archive of observers experiences of change over time of places they inhabit).

New York Times  
article about Mr  
Rokmaniko’s work:



  
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