

# CRITICAL MASS

## Exploring Design Solutions for Bike Sharing in LA

Wednesdays / 10 am – 12 pm / Room 225

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### Slow down, bike safely, lock it up, enjoy the city

Will LA develop a **bike sharing** program? Will the city “find the space” for bike lanes? Will Angelinos leave their cars to embrace the bike culture? Will we be able to live, perceive, observe and access our neighborhoods at a different speed? Will we be able to observe and “use” the city at a different pace? Will our health improve when we all start walking and biking again? Will bike sharing be able to reinvigorate the sense of community? Will traffic decrease? Will vacant parking lots be able to revert to public spaces? Will we slow down global warming and reduce pollution? Is bike sharing the most effective way to get people to cover medium distances and run errands? Will more people on the streets increase the sense of security? Will the combination bike + public transportation use be effective in the long run?

These and other questions will be analyzed, dissected, and observed to find strategies of implementation in the Wilshire Center **District**: the most forward-looking LA district in terms of sustainability. A district that not only is developing a comprehensive program – Cool district – with the vision of becoming the most green district of the city but it is interested in implementing this vision as soon as possible, providing its citizens and visitors with the most accessible and qualitative lifestyle in the dense LA Wilshire corridor.

The **class** will analyze the needs of a neighborhood centrally located in the city’s territory and extremely well connected by the public transportation system that includes the metro bus, rapid bus, and 3 stops of the red metro line. The opportunity to implement the bike sharing system in this area is a great one. The students will be directly involved in the selection of the locations and of the pilot system preliminary design.

During the first part of the semester students will survey the area and analyze the needs of the citizens: residents, businesses and commuters. After surveying the area, they will map and present to the Board the possible locations and the amount of bikes calculated to be necessary for this phase 1. Two types of stations will be taken into consideration: rental stations (type a) and temporary shopping stops (type b). The bike racks will be purchased as a ready-made together with the bikes.

Figure 2.6 Amount of space required to transport the same number of passengers by car, bus or bicycle. (Poster in city of Muenster Planning Office, August 2001)



Credit: PressOffice City of Münster, Germany

The seminar proposes to work at different scales: from an urban set of questions concerning city planning strategies, alternatives to traffic congestions, greening a neighborhood, as well as proposes to prepare a conceptual design of the areas in which the stalls will be installed. The class will create an opportunity for the students to straighten their knowledge and design abilities at many scales.

Meeting the client and getting in touch with local entities and the most contemporary needs of LA, and striving to modify the car culture of the city all provide a great cumulative experience to the students. This neighborhood wants to move ahead and lead the change, involving young generations of students in the development and implementation of these ideas.

The implementation of the bike sharing program will allow the **community** to live, perceive, observe, and access the neighborhood at a different speed: bicycles allow people to not only reach locations in a much more efficient and fast way but also to live and enjoy the city at a slower pace than by car. The ability to access local services and businesses without the obsession of “finding parking” will increase business success, bringing more people to this part of the city. Living at a different speed will also promote a friendlier use of this part of town: many people that are able to arrive with the public transportation system will then move freely within the area using the available bikes to reach restaurants, shops, and other destinations.

A higher **lifestyle** standard is the qualitative aspect this partnership program is promoting and pursuing with the vision of nourishing Los Angelinos and tourists to seek a better quality of life in their urban environment and community.



### **Class Schedule – Fall '09**

Wk 1 – project intro

Wk 2- – site survey – biking and mapping the area, interviewing citizens

Wk 3 – site visit – meeting Gary Russell at the Wilshire Center

Wk 4 – site survey

Wk 5-6 - case study – guest lecturers (bike sharing programs + local biking groups)

Wk 7-8 - master plan – analysis and sites proposals – presentation to the client / book format

Wk 9-10 - bike rack: manufacturers market analysis and type selection

Wk 11 - survey and bike sharing system presentation to BID and CRA – meeting, charette

Wk 12 - adjustment based on meeting

Wk 13 - system name and logo design

Wk 14 - presentation final report

Additional to classroom time we will participate to 2 evening meetings (Oct 6 and Nov 3), location will be communicate to a later date.

*Note: the schedule is subjected to revision and change.*

### **Deliverables:**

Students will produce a **written report** which will include: the results of the citizens' survey and comments recorded from the community meetings, the bike sharing master plan studies with strategies about improving the biking experience within the District, some answers to the questions from the first paragraph of the syllabus, a collection of the case studies and of the US main manufacturers bike sharing racks, and proposals for the name and logo of the program in the Cool District.

### **Logistic and Grading**

Attendance is mandatory to all lectures, presentations and field trips, as per school policy.

The grade will be based on the following percentages:

**70%** survey and written report

**30%** attendance, presentations of work and research and participation to class discussions (presentation of reading assignments and response to assignment/papers)

Late project presentations and material submittal will not be accepted and will not be graded.

SCI-Arc – Fall '09 - Ilaria Mazzoleni – imsciarc@yahoo.com – Wed 10am-12pm

**Bibliography:**

Specific bibliography will be distributed during class and readings will be posted on the server periodically.

These items will be on reserve in the library. *Additional readings include but are not limited to the bibliography indicated below:*

***Visual Communication:***

Eisenman, Peter. Diagram Diaries

Tufte, Edward R. Envisioning Information

Tufte, Edward R. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information

Tufte, Edward R. Visual Explanations

***Recommended Readings:***

Robert Gottlieb

Reinventing Los Angeles, Nature and Community in the Global City

Mirko Zardini

Sense of the City

Geoff Manaugh

[www.bldgblog.blogspot.com](http://www.bldgblog.blogspot.com)

Architectural Conjecture, Urban Speculation, Landscape Futures



**Bike sharing – precedence**



“Bicing” - Barcelona – Spain



Seville - Spain



“Velib” - Paris – France