MSc/PgDip/PgCert Urban Design

2009 / 2010

MASTERPLAN BRIEF

Sergio Porta, Ombretta Romice, and Tutors
Introduction

The MSc in Urban Design has to some extent changed this year as a consequence of new contents and approaches that have been embedded in its structure.

The course is now articulated into four phases:

1. **Case analysis.** You students will work in groups on Govan as part of a larger urban sector of Glasgow along the Clyde, getting to know intimately this area, its links potentials and pitfalls (Studio 1a);
2. **Urban Design Strategy.** You will propose a Strategic Plan and a Concept Plan, together forming the Urban Design Strategy, for the improvement of this area envisaging actions and projects that deal with services, mobility, housing, and public realm provision (Studio 1b);
3. **Block analysis and coding.** You will be requested to work out a complete morphological analysis of three urban blocks that are assigned by staff. The block analysis is carried out by drawing each urban block in two boards and by the quantitative analysis of morphological aspects as they appear on drawing. Once all sample blocks have been worked out and all data is available, students and staff derive from that a synthetic urban design code (Studio 1c).
4. **Masterplanning and place design.** You are led to the production of a masterplan for sub-areas of Govan district. You will learn how to take action for subdivision of large blocks, a correct management of density as related to transport and land use, how to design safe and livable streets and how to the existent urban fabric of public and private buildings in relation to streets, land uses, density and transport. Finally, you will be asked to deepen their masterplan and coding by experimentally developing the design of streets and buildings in a small part of it (Studio 2).

As you students read this brief, the (1) case analysis, the (2) Urban Design strategies and the (3) Block Analysis and Coding have been completed. At the end of the third and latter phase (fig.1), you have constructed preliminary drafts of documents that are essential for the formation of a Masterplan: the Foundation Masterplan and the Local Urban Code (your preliminary draft was named “Local Template”). The first step in this phase is to complete the work and produce the final Foundation Masterplan and Local Urban Code, which together constitute the Regulatory Framework for Govan. **Masterplan and Regulatory Framework** are the final product of the course.

![Diagram](image)

**Fig.1.** The final products of the course: Regulatory Framework (Foundation Masterplan and Local Urban Code) and Masterplan.
9.1 Scope and objectives

Scope:
This is the final phase of the course and therefore it will lead you students to the end products of your entire experience with this MSc in Urban Design. The brief will be then a bit looser than in previous phases. Put it shortly, having learned to walk, you will now be allowed to run. However, before running and expressing your creativity in the design of the Masterplan, you will still be requested to finalize your previous work on blocks making it practical and useful for the purposes of a Masterplan. This done, you will experiment designing a building under your rules, and then you will design streets, squares, public spaces and green areas. In addition, you will design private areas such as ordinary blocks, landmark buildings and specialist areas. The whole complexity of the city will clash on you and this will be probably result scaring, but do not panic: we will still be very precise on telling you not what to do, but how to do it, so that your work will be fairly facilitated at least from the technical side of it.

At the end of this phase, you will be able to:
- design a Local Urban Code;
- design a Foundation Masterplan;
- understand how architects and urban designers should work together for the sake of a sustainable and sound urban environment;
- design a Masterplan;

Objectives:

1. To formulate a complete Local Urban Code (LUC) for Govan.
2. To design a Foundation Masterplan.
3. To design a Masterplan.
### 9.2 Working instructions

**Timetable:**

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**Special Dates:**
- **Feb 9:** Block Splitting Exercise (EM)
- **Mar 9-12:** Design Workshop with Gordon Murray and Robert Adam
- **Mar 23:** Lecture on Traffic Calming (counts as UDR)
- **Apr 27:** Final internal review
- **May 24-25:** Final exams

*Masterplan Brief 09, 2009/10.*
The overall scope of the Masterplan phase is to define the final products of your work as Urban Designers: these products are the Regulatory Framework and the Masterplan. The Regulatory Framework is composed by two documents: the Foundation Masterplan (FM) and the Local Urban Code (LUC). As both FM and LUC have been worked out in draft in the previous phase, what you will be asked to do in the first pace is to finalize them. This will be done in a collective effort in the first two studio sessions, and will lead to the creation of Draft Masterplan for all your Masterplan Area. You will be requested to develop the Draft Masterplan according to the rules of your LUC and the densities set in your FM. This Draft Masterplan will then be the basis for an experimental Design Workshop that you will experience under the direction of two leading architects of different cultural orientation such as Gordon Murray and Robert Adam. During this Workshop, you will design one or more buildings and therefore understand how your Regulatory Framework does work from the point of view of the architect (you will be the architect there!). The Workshop will terminate with a feed back from yourself and possibly with modification to your Regulatory Framework.
1. Regulatory Framework (RF) and Draft Masterplan (DM) (week 1-5):

- **Finalizing the Local Urban Code.** In the last part of the previous phase you developed a list of indicators that you found essential for characterizing urban blocks in your Block Analysis. This list came equally out from the consideration of Form Based Codes selected from the professional practice all around the world. This list of indicators, termed Local Template of an urban code for Govan is presented here below in figure 2. As a first step in the Masterplanning phase you are requested to contribute to filling up this list with actual figures drawn from the blocks that you have investigated in your Block Analysis. This has to be done in two separate moments.

First, you have to come back to your block analysis and attribute *a hierarchy* to your block fronts. The hierarchy is dictated by the centrality of the streets on which the front abuts. So, in practice, you should first understand what level of centrality are those of the streets surrounding your block. For doing this, just check the **Current MCA Map** that is provided along with this Brief. That is a re-elaboration of your Betweenness centrality map but with a number of classes of centrality reduced to 4 in order to make your work simpler. In this map, you will see streets marked in red (high), orange (medium), light blue (low) and grey (almost zero). What you need to do is just to locate your blocks on the map and report this hierarchy on the Table 1 of your block analysis as an attribute to the columns where data on fronts are stored.

Second, you have to take into consideration the table which contains the Local Template. This table is also provided along with this Brief in a Microsoft Excel format. The work you should do is first finding out which category your block belongs to (which means which columns in the table are relevant to your block). Remember that the code of your block contains this information: for example, block “1Aa03” belongs to the “1Aa” category (High density, Mixed used, Aggregated). Then you have to report directly the values of your block analysis for that specific block into the Excel table of the Local Template. As for data relative to the fronts, of course you have to report data from your block analysis in the Table according to the hierarchical level of the front (see above).

The meaning of all this is simple: as you have seen in your blocks, you often find very different characters in the different fronts of the same block. Because this is a very essential feature of cities, it cannot be hide to the Code sinking the data of the fronts in an overall average data at the block level. So we need to differentiate fronts in our Code, and to dictate different rules for the different fronts of the same block, which nevertheless will result in compatible average figures at the block level. For example, you might want to have a higher front on the main street and a lower one on the local street, which gives an average medium building height for the block as a whole.

Once every group has filled one Excel Table of the Local Template for each of its blocks, you should email staff (refer to Eugenio) your Excel Tables as they are. We will take care of deriving minimum, maximum and average figures after considering the many cases falling in the same category, thus deriving reference quantities for designers. These reference quantities will be used to elaborate the final Table of the Local Urban Code for Govan. The Code will therefore express a very complex procedure that nevertheless ensures the correspondence between our ideas and real urbanism, learning from evidence rather than from abstract theories and establishing a link between what has made the history of a place and what will happen in the net future under our Masterplan.
Fig. 2. The list of indicators that had been found to be essential for the characterization of urban blocks in Govan after a study of both Form Based Codes in the professional practice and the results of the Block Analysis of Govan. This list constitutes the "Local Template". Once filled out with average figures drawn from the Block Analysis, this list will be termed the Local Urban Code (LUC) of Govan.
- **Finalizing the Foundation Masterplan.** In the previous phase you achieved a rough idea of proposed densities on the basis of your Concept Plan. The document that you produced has been termed Foundation Masterplan. Thus you already know the street hierarchy (as for main streets at least), specialist areas, and areas belonging to the basic urban fabric of the city that include areas which you are not changing a lot (Regulatory Areas) and those where major changes in function or the environment are taking place according to your proposal (Transformation Areas). In this step you are requested to move your Foundation Masterplan ahead by adding two fundamental elements:
  - First, the proposed street layout.
  - Second, the proposed block density.

Because you cannot have a clear idea of your blocks until you have a final definition of your detailed street layout (blocks are defined by streets), these two tasks should be worked out in sequence: first the street layout, and then the proposed block density. Please notice that not necessarily a project of urban regeneration implies renovating the street system, which is a very expensive and complex endeavour indeed. Depending on the location and shape of your Masterplan areas and on your approach to the design of spaces, a renovation of the street layout may be advisable at different degrees. However, especially when existing specialist areas or large modernist estates are turned into proposed basic blocks, reconnecting and reinforcing the street layout is of crucial importance.

In order for you to learn the basic principles on how to design a street layout that really works for the people and how to assess it, you will go through a day-long class exercise that will be delivered on February 9th. In this exercise you will conduct a comparative study between the current situation of the street layout and the proposed scheme. Two main goals off this exercise should be fulfilled:

1) First aim of this exercise is to better connect the people living in the neighborhood by increasing the walkability of the site itself. By so doing, you should demonstrate that larger areas can be reached in the same time (5 min and 10 min intervals).
2) The second aim is to better distribute the densities on the site, in order to give a stronger identity to the district and neighborhood centers (ref. Transit Oriented Developments TOD) and to guarantee a certain degree of environmental diversity within the Masterplan. In fact, different densities correspond to different housing typologies and thus different mixed and social uses.

To accomplish this exercise, you have to:

1) a) Calculate the permeability of the urban texture before and after your planned intervention (*Pedshed analysis*, ref. brief 5, *Comparative analysis of urban fabrics*). Take the neighbourhood (ND) and district (DS) centers of your concept plan and draw down the reachable areas in a 5 minutes walk (400m) and in a 10 minutes walk (800m). First, you have to draw two circles, one with 400 meters radius and one with 800 meters radius. The first will contain the polygon with the reachable areas within the 5 minutes walk, whereas the second one will contain reachable areas within the 10 minutes walk. To identify these polygons, you have to move along the streets until you reach the 400 and 800 meters of linear distance. You should fill all the plots (not the entire blocks!) you touch along this path.
   b) Compute the number of blocks inside the 800 meters radius circles and derive the number of blocks per hectare (before and after your design scheme).
   c) Compute the permeability index as the percentage of the reachable area inside the circles (400 m and 800m) and do some considerations about the improvement of walkability with your design scheme. The percentage of the reachable area can be computed by simply calculating the ratio of the reachable area (take the entire area of the polygon, streets included) divided by the area of the circle.
2) Calculate the densities (du/ha) on all the blocks before and after your intervention (please provide a table with densities and ID of blocks). In this exercise you should redistribute the densities on the site to strengthen your local centers. Use different classes of densities, starting from the indications elaborated in your Foundation Masterplan, according to your needs and build a table with the identified classes and the references to existing urban blocks (pictures or plans) for each class of density you identify. For instance, by deciding the densities on each block, you also get an idea of the building typologies you can build on the block itself. Moreover, please draw also some significant diagrammatic sections along the masterplan area to show the variation of the densities (before and after).
Fig. 3a. Comparative study of existing urban blocks in Milan (from works of students of Politecnico di Milano, 2009).

Fig. 3b. Comparative study of the existing and proposed street layout for a neighborhood in Milan (idem).

Fig. 3c. Comparative study of the existing and proposed street layout for a neighborhood in Milan (idem).

Fig. 3d. Comparative PedShed analysis of existing and proposed street layout for a neighborhood in Milan (idem).
Fig.3e. Definition of the new densities on the site and samples of building typologies for a district in the Milan metropolitan areas (idem).
You will have time to refine your street layout and bring it to an end in week 2, 3 and 4.

**Keep in mind that the exercise of Block Splitting should be understood as a somehow abstract first step into the problem, but the finalization of the proposed street layout is a complex and difficult matter that is NOT the direct outcome of the exercise itself.** In order for you to accomplish a good street layout you will have to ground on the whole culture of urbanity that you have learned so far, not limited to pedsheds: for example, ensure that:

1. Your new streets are well integrated with those already existent (in the sense of fitting well in the hierarchy and realizing 4-ways junctions as a rule);
2. Main streets traverse the core of your districts and neighbourhood (i.e. they do not define their borders).
3. Specialist areas with major public functions are visually and functionally connected by the main street network.
4. The size of blocks resulting from your local and main street network is compatible with the ones the characterises corresponding blocks in you block analysis.
5. Main streets intersect every 400mts or so (or in any case in a range of 300-500mts).

Once your street layout has been defined, as a result you have a detailed definition of your blocks. The next step is very straightforward: you should just consider the densities suggested in your Foundation Masterplan and specify them for each of the new blocks. Every block, at the end of that, will be characterized by a certain density. Once this is done (end of week 2), you have your Foundation Masterplan finalized.

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**Draft Masterplan: built-up land.** We conceive a Masterplan as a document that deals with three urban materials:
2. Streets and Squares,
3. Green and Open Public Spaces.

In this Draft Masterplan phase (weeks 3-5), you will work just on the first material: Built-Up Land.

What is the Built-Up Land? It is the part of the urban territory that is organized in blocks and buildings. The Built-Up Land is constituted by specialist and basic blocks. **Basic blocks** are those where you have at least a significant presence of residential, which might be mixed with compatible productive, commercial or service functions. **Specialist blocks** are those where specialist activities take place that occupy the very most of the block: on one side these are major public facilities in general like hospitals, stadiums, libraries or theatres; on the other side these are major private facilities (but of public relevance) for commercial (like commercial centres), directional or productive purposes (like offices or industries).
- **Basic Blocks components:**
  - **Building Types.** Buildings should be designed in plan: the boundary of the building should be filled with a color that indicates its type according to the same legend that you used in Table 2 of the Block Analysis. Derive the basic geometry of new buildings that you are proposing from what you found on the ground in the Block Analysis for the same types of buildings. The proposed number of floors must be superimposed on the building footprint. Once you have done that for every front of the block, the resulting density must be consistent with the indications that you have in your Regulatory Plan.
  - **Active frontages.** Mark with clearly visible symbols those front that are supposed to be “active”, in the sense that they settle retail commerce and service activities at the ground floor with a direct entrance from the street.
  - **Block front hierarchy.** Assign to each block front a hierarchy using the same legend (4 categories) of the Local Urban Code. In order to do this, refer to the Full Scenario MCA Map that is also provided along with this Brief. This map has the same characteristics of the previous Current MCA map, but it embeds all modifications to the street current network proposed during the Analysis phase. Of course, the best option would be to re-run the MCA tool over a network that exactly represents your proposed strategy, but we understand that this would be too much. So just try to approximate a correct hierarchy on the basis of what you already have, i.e. the Full Scenario MCA map.
  - **Landmark buildings.** Mark with a symbol those buildings that in your opinion, because of their prominent location and exceptional visibility, can be valued as “landmarks”. Such buildings, exactly for their exceptionality, will not follow the rules established in your Local Urban Code.
  - **Plots.** Clearly draw on your plan the line of the plots. This information is perhaps the most important in your Masterplan, so make it clear and visible.
  - **Stages.** With the word “stage” we here are meaning coherently and uniformly designed frontages that do not follow the rules of diversity normally dictated by the Local Urban Code. Mark in a clearly visible the block fronts that in your opinion should be treated so that uniformity of design prevails. The meaning of this component is that while diversity is a value in general terms, yet in some special cases uniformity is a value as well. Think for example of the many marvelous crescents that punctuate the urban landscape of the best Victorian neighborhoods of UK cities. The point is that uniformity should not be a rule, but it is extremely valuable as an exception wherever it helps in remarking particular places. Stages should be located in special places where you want to put emphasis on particular characters of the street space.
  - **Private open spaces.** Private open spaces are gardens, frontyards and backyards internal to a plot.
  - **Shared open spaces.** Shared open spaces are courtyards, gardens and small parks that are shared by more than one plot.

- **Specialist Block components:**
  - **Buildings layout.** Draw the footprint of specialist buildings. This should be intended as a non prescriptive indication that nevertheless makes it clear the rough position of the building in the block and, if the block has many plots, in its plot.
  - **Function:** all specialist buildings of a public nature should be filled with bright blue color, while all those of a private nature should be filled in purple. Add a label to make it clear the particular function of the building, if relevant.
  - **Alignment with the street:** indicate the prescriptive alignment of the buildings to the street fronts.
  - **Primary and secondary entrances:** indicate the location of primary and secondary entrances to the buildings.
  - **Open space (courtyard, gardens, parking…):** design the intended layout of open shared spaces within the block.

Please remember that your final proposal for the Built-Up Land will be the outcome of the whole Masterplanning phase at the end of the course. You are now just producing a first draft version, so do not panic if not everything seems convincing at the moment. This Draft version is expected to deliver tentative solutions that will then be tested through the Workshop and after that against your proposals for Streets and Squares and for Green and Open Public Spaces.
2. Design Workshop (week 6):

The workshop is funded by ESUA and is one of the events organised as part of their European Interdisciplinary course in Architecture and Urbanism.

The workshop focuses on Form Based Design Codes, and aims to illustrate their value in urban development. In particular, it will engage students in the detailed design of the built environment following previously developed Design Codes, under the tutorship of two renowned architects, Gordon Murray and Robert Adam, to demonstrate that well planned urban structure should be able to produce good environments independently from architectural lexicon and style.

Preliminary programme

SATURDAY 6th/SUNDAY 7th
ESUA Team arrives and settle in accommodation.

SUNDAY 7th
ESUA meeting

MONDAY 8th
[Material required from students: sketching material, digital cameras]
9.30-11.30 Lecture: Michael Mehaffy opens the Workshop
In Studio. Strathclyde and EU students. Strathclyde students show and explain work done to date.
Students form teams: roughly 2/3 Strathclyde students, 1 ESUA student per team.
Each team works on one masterplan; Strathclyde students to pair according to their masterplan area.
11.30-15.30 Site visit in teams
15.30 In studio. Teams agree detailed projects. Each project to include at least 2 blocks across a public space/street. Each team can select more than one project if team members decide to pair up in smaller teams.
Design work starts. Teams to produce brief for design project by 17.00 and initial massing diagrams.

Pub/dinner

TUESDAY 9th
[Material: drawing material, model making material and digital cameras]
All work to be done at scales: 1:500 for concepts, 1:200, 1:100 and 1:50 details if necessary for schemes.
9.00 In Studio. Works resumes.
Teams are divided in 2; one works with Gordon Murray, one with Robert Adam.
Gordon Murray and Robert Adam work as design tutors.
9.30-10.30 Lecture: Gordon Murray and Robert Adam make short presentations of their architectural approaches.
10.30 Robert Adam Team and Gordon Murray Team meet separately. Student groups present their briefs/massing and progress in general to Gordon Murray and Robert Adam.
11.00. Tutored design work starts officially – teams work under Gordon Murray and Robert Adam’s guidance.
15.00. Gordon Murray and Robert Adam conclude Day 1 tutorials, students carry on working.

WEDNESDAY 10th
[Material: drawing material, model making material and digital cameras]
9.30 In Studio. Works resumes.
Students work in the morning by themselves.
13.00 - 17:00 Design tutorials with Gordon Murray and Robert Adam.
Teaching Team (Michael Mehaffy, Sergio Porta, Ombretta Romice and tutors): comment, feedback, reflection, documentation of process, and design tutoring.
THURSDAY
[material: drawing material, model making material and digital cameras]
9.30  In Studio. Works resumes.
12.00-16:00 Design tutorials with Gordon Murray and Robert Adam.
Evening/Night to complete final drawings and models.
Teaching Team (Michael Mehaffy, Sergio Porta, Ombretta Romice and tutors):
comment, feedback, reflection, documentation of process, and design tutoring.

FRIDAY
9:00. Students’ work exhibition mounted and completed.
13:00  Conclusion and documentation of final work.

3. Finalizing the Masterplan (week 7-12):
As stated above, we conceive a Masterplan as a document that deals with three urban materials:
2.  Streets and Squares,
3.  Green and Open Public Spaces.
Before and throughout the Workshop in this Masterplan phase you have achieved:
-  A (roughly) final street layout (Foundation Masterplan);
-  A detailed indication of densities for every block (Foundation Masterplan);
-  A set of specific quantitative requirements for every type of block derived from existent blocks in
  Govan and Glasgow (Local Urban Code);
-  A detailed indication of block types for each of your proposed blocks (Foundation masterplan.
  -  A draft indication for the actual design of proposed blocks (both basic and specialist) in terms of
    building type, lots, entrances, private open areas and many other structural characters (Draft
    Masterplan: Built-Up Land).
Now, after a long construction, it is time to shot the ball in goal! In the next 6 weeks (weeks 7-12) you will
have plenty of time to deliver the final products of this course: the Regulatory Framework and the
Masterplan. The Regulatory Framework is composed by Foundation Masterplan and Local Urban Code:
they had been finalized already before the Workshop, but they may be revised in this phase making the
best use of the workshop experience. As for the Masterplan, you already have developed a draft version
for the Built-Up Land, which you will want to deepen and finalize after the Workshop; you will start from
scratch with the design of Streets and Squares and Green and Open Public Spaces.
All these four activities, namely:
  1.  Revising Foundation Masterplan and Local Urban Code;
  2.  Finalizing Masterplan (Built-Up Land);
  3.  Designing Masterplan (Streets and Squares);
  4.  Designing Masterplan (Green and Open Public Spaces)
though illustrated separately in the following sections of this Brief, should be conceived as a unique
creative effort.
It is in this phase that creativity plays a crucial role in your work. Keep in mind that, with all the importance
that they have, analytical studies do not bring directly to solutions. In the real world, solutions come from a
collective process that involves many different actors that very often compete one against each other. In
this arena, you as urban designer play your own game trying to inform the process with a sound picture of
problems and possible visions. It is your responsibility to put your creativity at work on solutions that fully
interpret the great complexity of the problems involved and to make the best of what you have learnt in the
process. The richer the process, the richer the solution: but never forget that between the former and the
latter there is a gap that only your personal culture, commitment and creativity may bridge. So this is the
time for you to show the world how much relevant and fruitful they are.

-  Revising the Regulatory Framework. The Regulatory Framework is composed by Foundation
  Masterplan (FM) and Local Urban Code (LUC). You had elaborated a final version of both before
  the Workshop and tested them extensively throughout it. Have the indices that you have taken
  into account in the LUC showed an appropriate level of guidance during your building design
  experience in the Workshop? Were its figures appropriate as well? Are there changes in indices
  or figures that may improve the quality of your LUC guidance? Are there other types of blocks that
  have left out in the process of building the LUC?
Try to sort all these problems and others that may have arisen in the Workshop out as a first step in the design of your Masterplan. Do not forget, however, that modifications to your LUC and your FM may emerge during the design. So again, consider the revision of your Regulatory Framework as something substantially embedded in your design activity in a cyclical and continuous process that will end up just at the end of your course.

- **Finalizing the Design of Built-Up Land.** The contents of this activity are illustrated in detail in section 1.3 above. Again, as for the Regulatory Framework, your ideas for how to design your blocks have been tested extensively throughout the Workshop so you may find it useful to change your mind about them to some extent. Moreover, in this phase the design of blocks will proceed in parallel with that of streets, squares and public spaces, so no doubts that all the endless specific solutions that will make your plan something more than an abstract exercise will come out only in this phase. You have to turn a general understanding and a work on the rules into something very sensible to detailed local conditions, and it is only in this phase that you can do that.

Our suggestion is to report all general question that have arisen from the workshop in a memo, start deepening the design of Streets and Squares and Green and Open Public Space, and come back to the design of block once ideas are a bit clearer on those sides.

- **Designing Streets and Squares.**
  - The process of designing streets and squares does not begin with drawing in plan. It begins by recognizing *street types* as defined in your proposed concept plan and reported in your Foundation and Draft Masterplans.
  - Produce *street design standards* for every street type by drawing existing and proposed plan/sections at 1:200 (fig.4). Important features of design standards are the width and the level of the public right of way, and within it: sidewalks, carriageways, vehicular lanes (specify where cars and other public transport vehicles run), medians, tree lines and whatever other physical elements are though to be relevant for that type of street.

![Fig.4. An example of Street Design Standard for one street type in Cavriago, Italy: existent situation (left) and proposal (right). Source: Human Space Lab.](image)

- The design standard in the first place indicates a proposed strategy of *Traffic Calming.* Traffic Calming is a set of design principles and techniques that ensures the safe and mutually beneficial coexistence of vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists on all urban streets. Urban streets with a different position in hierarchy will be therefore treated differently, with higher priority to vehicles at higher hierarchical grades and vice-versa. Fundamentals of Traffic Calming will be the subject of a dedicated lecture; bibliographic references will be suggested in due course.
- Clearly indicate the location of proposed “ped-priority precincts”. In this context, we define “ped-priority precincts” those public spaces fronting the entrance to particularly sensible public facility, where a special priority to pedestrians must be ensured. These may typically be spaces in the immediate proximity of entrances to hospitals, theatres, schools, centers for sport and recreation, gardens and parks, or any highly frequented public amenity. Ped-priority precincts are set only in spaces that are NOT just for pedestrians: in such pedestrian areas, in fact, there is no scope to prioritize pedestrians, who by definition already dominate the space. Rather, ped-priority precincts are set in spaces shared by vehicles and pedestrians, i.e. urban streets. As a rule, streets with a certain position in hierarchy, within the limits of the ped-priority precinct will nevertheless be designed according to the standards of the lower adjacent rank in hierarchy. Locate ped-priority precincts strategically in a plan at 1:5000/10000 using symbols.

- Once all street types have been detailed with a street design standard, come back to the plan of existing Govan and start trying to apply the standard to all streets within your Masterplan area by re-designing them in plan. This means that your street design standard should now be made place-specific by being responsive to every possible opportunity or challenge coming from the street fronts or the surroundings: themes, inspirations, characters, land-uses, vocations, memories and heritage, views, churches, ped-priority precincts (as defined above), everything that qualifies the uniqueness of a place is gold and must be reflected in some way in your street design (fig.5). The process of translating your design standards into a Masterplan design for streets and squares is exactly the process of turning this gold into a detailed design of streets in plan.

- In general, try to:
  - Correlate the width of the street with the height of fronting buildings.
  - Design a “smooth transition” between public and private domain: refer to Jan Gehl’s “Life Between Buildings” for a notion of what the “transitional space” is and how it should be designed.
  - Clearly indicate where building fronts at the ground level are supposed to be “active”, i.e. to settle retail commerce and services.

Fig.5. The street design standard of fig.4 transformed into the actual design of the real street in Cavriago, Italy: notice that the design varies as the street traverses different contexts, but still following the same standard. Source: Human Space Lab.
- **Designing Green and Open Public Spaces**: Green and open public spaces constitute part of the ecological network of the district together with other natural materials such as rivers, streams, woods, tree lines and the like. Green and open public spaces should be distinguished in Parks and Pocket Parks: the former are large green areas equipped for attracting people from the whole district and beyond, while the latter are smaller gardens mainly used by fronting residents.

The design of Green and Open Public Spaces should not be conceived as an architectural or landscape design, but again should express limits, opportunities and requirements that according to the urban designers view must be embedded in their future arrangement, i.e. views to be preserved, path or connections to be ensured, accesses to be provided, fencings or walls...

4. Final Layout and Exhibition (week 13-16):

- **Final Layout and Exhibition**: Between the Final Internal Review and the Final Exam you students have 4 full weeks to finalize the layout of your work and set up all materials for the final exhibition. Details on the exhibition, timescale, spaces and the like, will be given during the course.