ARCH 562: Architectural Themes & Case Studies: Formal, Spatial & Anatomical Elements of the Urban Landscape

Units: 2
Term – Fall 2019
Day - Wednesday
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
Location: SOS B2

Instructor: Vinayak Bharne
Office Hours: Monday & Friday, between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Contact Info: Email: bharne@usc.edu; Phone: 323-252-7145; Skype: vinayak.bharne; Timeline for replying to emails/calls: within 48 hours

Teaching Assistant: Shuchi Mishra, Gayathri Vinod Singhal, Yashoda Godhani

Course Description

This 2-unit, graduate level lecture seminar is open to all disciplines, though specifically required for selected graduate students in the School of Architecture.

Together with Architecture 561, this course has been developed to provide knowledge on the history, theories, and working methodologies of cities and their buildings, to support the Graduate Design Studios in the M. Arch programs. In contrast to ARCH 561, which offers a theoretical and historiographical introduction to the contemporary urban condition, this course will examine the physical and anatomical elements of the urban landscape as architectural tools for design application and praxis. From the beginning of the class to the mid-term, lectures, readings and exercises will focus on formal and spatial concepts of overall city form and design across culture and time. Past the mid-term till the semester end, lectures, readings and exercises will focus on specific physical elements, their characteristics and details. This course will examine how the conscious architectural design of these elements can generate characters, signatures and qualities of place. And how their architecture can shape, celebrate or in turn confront pre-industrial traditions, as well as the effects of industrialization, post-industrialization, and globalization shaping the contemporary urban landscape we experience today.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1) To explore the role of architecture in rebuilding our cities within a rapidly urbanizing contemporary world.
2) To understand the relationships between buildings and urban space, technologies and urban structure.
3) To examine the impact on industrialization, post-industrialization and globalization on building form, urban patterns, typologies, density, scale, and open spaces.
4) To broaden the understanding of urban form as cultural expression that is architecturally contested and appropriated, using comparative example from across the world.
5) To overview the paradigmatic positions and manifestoes in recent urban history as they developed in the West and were transferred, translated and transformed beyond the West.

Student Performance Criteria

Revised August 2018
a) Professional Communication Skills: This course requires students to engage in both graphic, written and verbal communication skills through the two class assignments, specifically, mapping of the urban landscape, and accompanying analytical narratives, and their presentation to a jury.

b) Investigative Skills: This course assignment requires students to gather, assess, record and comparatively evaluate relevant information related to the anatomical components of a city.

c) Use of Precedents: All lectures in this class, as well as the accompanying class readings elaborate and analyze various thematic examples of cities, places and projects.

d) History & Global Culture Understanding: The case studies used in this course are trans-national in breadth and offer students a deeper understanding of how urban form and urban elements overlap and change across cultures. The lectures also overview the histories and circumstances that have given rise to different urban ensembles across the world.

e) Cultural Diversity & Social Equity Understanding: The lectures in this course range from cities in the developed world such as New York and Paris, to those in the less developed world such as Mumbai and Panama City. The lectures also offer comparative overviews on the culture-specific social traits that have influenced urban form.

**Prerequisite(s): None**
**Co-Requisite(s): None**
**Concurrent Enrollment: None**
**Recommended Preparation: None**

**Course Notes**

The course will be structured around 10 thematic Powerpoint lectures. Each lecture will use multiple case studies and examples to analyze and elaborate on the specific theme. Each lecture class will tied to thematically-related readings that will form part of the class discussion. Each class will consist of a 1 hour lecture, followed by a 15 minute discussion, and a 30 minute discussion focused on the required weekly readings. The remaining time will be given to the development of the class assignment. Final presentations of student assignments will be reviewed by an invited jury.

**Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required**

Students are expected to have basic graphic and softwares such as ADOBE. 3d modeling softwares are encouraged. WORD or other text software is essential.

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

At the beginning of the class, the instructor will hand out a pdf binder of selected readings that will be used during the semester.

**Description and Assessment of Assignments**

Each student will pick a city to study throughout the semester with the help of the Instructor.

**Mid Term:**

Students will create 6 mappings of their selected city. The themes for the mappings will be:
1) Evolution – Four/Five diagrams showing the incremental growth of the city over time
2) Street Network – Plan drawing showing the heiraracy of streets, major and minor
3) Block Structure & Types - Plan drawing showing the forms and disposition of blocks
4) Formal Structure – Four small plan diagrams showing readings of the urban form (such as monuments, train stations, districts, downtown, etc.)
5) Nature and Ecology - Plan diagram showing natural elements within/around the city
6) Open Space Network – Plan diagram showing parks, greens etc within/around the city

The intent of this exercise is to teach students to collect, organize and decipher data and information towards original graphic communication of the urban condition.

The format for each of the six graphics will be 11 x 17 landscape. Details will be discussed in class.

The Mid Term Submission is due on October 9, 2019

Final:

For the Final, students will polish the 6 mid term graphics based on feedback.

Additionally they select an area within the city and create 6 new graphics per the following themes:

7) Urban Sequence – Plan diagram showing a selected spatial sequence between two urban nodes
8) Street Form – A plan/sectional study of the street within the area
9) Block Form – A plan/sectional study of a selected block along the urban sequence
10) Vistas – Four small diagrammatic sketches of vistas along the urban sequence
11) Infographics – Four diagrams showing various facts about the city
12) 1000 word narrative on the history of the city

The final submission package will be a single black and white 11 x 17 booklet with 12 pages bookended by a cover and a bibliography.

The mappings will be graded per the following criteria
a) Content (to what degree is the mapping investigative and based on original observation and analysis, rather than passive data and readily-available information?)
b) Clarity (does it adequately emphasize its principal point of inquiry? Does it include enough context to supplement a comprehensive reading of the chosen theme?)
c) Scholarship (How does this graphic narrative go beyond obvious facts/date to capture deeper observations of the physical urban landscape?)

The final submission is due on December 13, 2019

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Responses to Readings</td>
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**Grading Scale (Example)**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

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**Assignment Rubrics**

None

**Assignment Submission Policy**

Mid Term and Final assignments each must be submitted as a SINGLE pdf file (no multiple sheets) 8.5 x 11 size portrait. There is no limit to page numbers.

They should be submitted in person directly to the Instructor in class on the day of the final exam. Any absences must be excused in writing by the Instructor at least two weeks prior to the final exam.

**Grading Timeline**

The standard timeline for grading and feedback is 1 week.

**Additional Policies**

Late assignments will only be accepted within the first 24 hours of the mid term and/or final exam. Late assignments will be penalized by 1 letter grade.

Instructor will take attendance in each class. Students entering the class beyond the first 15 minutes will be marked absent.

More than two unexcused absences, that is, not being present in the entire class, will be reported to the Program Director.
**Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

**PART I – URBAN FORM AS ARTEFACT**

**August 28: Architecture & Urban Form - Part I: Variations across Culture & Time**

This introductory lecture will offer a preface to the various detailed case studies that follow. It will overview the multiple variations of urban form across cultures and time. How did city form in the past embody a culture-specific trait, pattern or logic – be it in terms of how the city was sited, shaped or structured? How did industrialization transform such paradigms? How did newer patterns of urban form create continuities or ruptures with the past? Going from classical Rome and medieval Edo, to the Modern cities of Canberra and Chandigarh, the intent of this inaugural lecture is to establish the design of urban form as an architectural tradition across space and time.

Class Readings:
“The City Shaped: Urban Patterns & Meanings through History” by Spiro Kostof, pg. 9-40

**September 4: Architecture & Urban Form - Part II: Readings & Representations**

This lecture will follow upon the inaugural lecture and introduce students to some of the paradigmatic readings and mapping techniques of city form. Discussions will include the 1748 Nolli Plan of Rome and its contemporary application as the Figure Field; the Ryakuchu Ryakugai mappings of Kyoto; the aerial perspectives of Berlage and Burnham; the townscape drawings of Gordon Cullen; the incremental mappings of Christopher Alexander; and the diagrammatic analysis of Camillo Sitte and Rem Koolhas. The intent of this lecture is to expose students to the multiplicity of how cities have been depicted as both physical artifacts, and dynamic evolving places.

Class Readings:
*Giavan Battista Nolli* by Guilia Aurigemma, from “Roma Interrotta,” edited my Michael Graves, pg. 27-29

**September 11: The Grid: Barcelona, Manhattan, Savannah, New Orleans, Havana Building Case Study – Casa Mila & Cas Batlo, Barcelona by Antonio Gaudi**

This lecture will focus on the first of four urban form themes, the Grid. It will explore the idea of the gridded city as an urban form with multiple three-dimensional morphological variations using five case studies: Barcelona, Manhattan, Savannah, New Orleans and Havana. In each case, the grid will be explored as a complex physical compound of finite components and distinct concepts. For example, how did the 1907 zoning code for Manhattan instigate a sculptural high-rise Art-Deco building and street form to allow greater solar access into its streets? How do grid plans such as New Orleans, and Havana negotiate complex terrains and geographies? The intent of this lecture is to offer students a sophisticated understanding of the gridded city as an architectural concept that is much more than perpendicular intersections and rectilinear geometries.

This lecture will also focus on the architecture of the grid through a detailed study of the Casa Mila and Cas Batlo by Antonio Gaudi in Barcelona, analyzing these buildings at three scales – as a building assembly of program and rooms; as part of a city block; and as part of a larger urban grid.

Class Readings:
“Manhattan: Rectangular Grid for Ordering an Island” edited by Joan Busquets et al, pg. 7-21
September 18: The Figure: Paris, New Delhi, Venice, Washington DC  
Building Case Study – St. Marks Piazza and its buildings, Venice

This lecture will focus on the theme of the figural city as a direct counterpoint to the gridded city. How have urban forms been consciously shaped to generate figural open-to-sky spaces, and how has architecture played a role in defining them? How have generic urban elements such as streets, and natural features such as rivers and canals been shaped as geometric forms to create spatial accents and sequences? From the radial streets and axes of Paris and New Delhi, to the National Mall in Washington DC, this lecture will analyze urban form as a carefully conceived diagram of intersecting geometries, spaces and vistas.

Simultaneously, this lecture will also focus on the architecture of St. Marks Piazza in Venice. It will show students how the design of individual buildings, whether as civic monuments or fragments of the generic fabric, play a crucial role in embodying the physical experience of the figural city in three-dimensional form.

Class Readings:
The Architectural Foundation of New Urban Forms: The Case of Venice by Maurizio Sabini

September 25: The Aggregation: Rome, Istanbul, Cairo, Mumbai  
Building Case Study – Murcia Town Hall, Spain, by Raphael Moneo

This lecture will focus on the idea of urban form as a visually and experientially ambiguous ensemble of the multiple elements and place-types. It will offer a further counterpoint to both the previous themes of the Grid and the Figure. It will elaborate on how multifarious factors – from complex terrains and land scarcity, to economic polarization and administrative ambiguity – contribute to the evolution of such ensembles. Case studies will include Rome, Istanbul, Cairo, and Mumbai, offering a comparative analysis of aggregated urban forms in various parts of the world, and extracting their overlaps and differences. The intent of this lecture is to impress upon students that visually ambiguous urban forms are not necessarily un-planned and under-designed, and that numerous factors beyond the strictly design domain bear a direct influence on how the city physically evolves and grows.

This lecture will then focus on the architecture of the Murcia Town Hall by Raphael Moneo as an exemplar of how contemporary architecture can read, respond to and acknowledge its role and formal appropriateness within complex aggregated urban ensembles.

Class Readings:
Isfahan, from “Formal Structure in Islamic Architecture of Iran & Turkistan,” by Klaus Herdeg, pg. 12-35
“Reclaiming (the Urbanism of) Mumbai,” edited by Kelly Shanon & Janina Gosseye, pg 9-23
The Lesson of Rome by Jon Michael Schwarting

October 2: The Anomaly: Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Dubai, Las Vegas  
Building Case Study – TOD Building, Omotesando, Tokyo, by Toyo Ito

This lecture will focus on urban forms way too unique to serve as generic urban models. What can we learn from these unique cases? What are their merits and shortcomings? This lecture will discuss the evolution and form of five cities: 1) The unprecedented explosion of Los Angeles from a modest pueblo to a regional metropolis, first due to trains and later cars and freeways; 2) The hyper density of Hong Kong as a unique high-rise city built on almost entirely reclaimed land; 3) The phenomenological idea of Tokyo as one of the densest mega-cities on the planet recurrently rebuilt on a fragile geography of earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis; 4) The four-decade evolution of Dubai from a city of 50,000 to a sprawling landscape of disconnected projects with more than five-million people; 5) The presence of Las Vegas as a suburban
American desert city with an infamous urban core dominated by an architecture of simulacras. The intent of this lecture is to encourage students to approach, engage with and read urban forms on their own terms.

The building case study for this will be the TOD building in Tokyo by Toyo Ito. This building sits on a narrow lot along one of Tokyo’s most important avenues – an evidence of the severe land constraints of Tokyo. How does innovative architecture emerge from such challenges and limitations?

Class Readings:
“Learning From Las Vegas: The Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form” by Robert Venturi et al (pg. 3-19)
Rereading Tokyo, from “Zen Spaces & Neon Places: Reflections on Japanese Architecture and Urbanism,” by Vinayak Bhave

October 9: Mid Term presentations and submission of assignments

PART II – URBAN FORM AS ASSEMBLAGE

October 16: Infrastructure & Networks: Toronto, Hong Kong, Kyoto, New York
Building Case Study – Kyoto Train Station, Kyoto, by Hiroshi Hara

Past the Mid Term exams, this lecture will kick-off the second part of the course that focuses on the specific anatomical elements of the urban landscape. We begin with infrastructures and networks, that is, elements that constitute the underbelly of the city, that are typically understood as engineering constructs, yet are increasingly coming under the purview of urban and architectural design. Discussions will focus on the mobility palimpsest, including streets, highways, parking spaces, mega-stations, as well as subterranean and above grade elements. Case studies will include Toronto’s subterranean network, Hong Kong’s elevated pedestrian bridges, Kyoto’s ten-story underground train-station; and New York’s High Line. This lecture will examine how architectural design can augment the visual presence and spatial experience of infrastructural elements and networks.

The building focus of this lecture will be the ten-subterranean-story mega train station in Kyoto designed by Hiroshi Hara. How does progressive architecture transform the nature and reading of infrastructure into and urban amenity and social mega space?

Class Readings:
Underground Landscape: The Urbanism and Infrastructure of Toronto’s Downtown Pedestrian Network by Pierre Belanger
“Cities Without Ground: A Hong Kong Guidebook” by Adam Frampton et al, pg. 6-34

October 23: Nature & Landscape: Seoul, Boston, Amsterdam
Building Case Study – Gardens by the Bay, Singapore; Bosco Verticale, Milan by Stefano Boeri

This lecture will focus on natural features as architectural elements. How can mountains, rivers, forests, canals and agrarian tracts be included as design elements in the architecture of the city? Case studies will include the 2.5-mile Cheonggyecheon Riverscape in Seoul; the Grachtengordel canal district in Amsterdam with more than 1500 monumental buildings; the 82-kilometer-long Panama Canal; and the 1,100-acre Emerald Necklace chain of parks and waterways designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead in Boston. This lecture will analyse each case study at three simultaneous scales: 1) the scale of the city, that is, how the natural element forms part of a larger regional landscape; 2) the scale of the district, that is, how the natural element is part of a planned aggregate of surrounding streets, blocks and buildings, and 3) the scale of the fragment, that is the specific architectural details of the designed and transformed natural feature.
This lecture will also focus on two building case studies: the 101-hectare Gardens by the Bay project in Singapore that features the largest greenhouses in the world. And the two high rises towers of the Bosco Verticale in Milan that contains more than 900 trees on 8,900 square metres of terrace. How can landscape become the domain of architecture design? How can buildings be reread as parts of a natural landscape?

Class Readings:
The 2020 Vision for Australian Cities by Bruce Eckberg
The Necessity to Resist Dalat’s Plastic Revolution by Bruno de Meulder & Kelly Shannon
The Falcon’s Return by Jill Stoner

October 30: Public Space & its Variations: Madrid, Rome, New York, Shanghai, Osaka
Building Case Study – Blaak Station Market Hall, Rotterdam, by MVRDV

This lecture will look at variations of urban public space across the world today. How has the idea of public space spanned from a natural open-to-sky void, to a building-related mega gathering place? Case studies will include Central Park, New York; plazas and squares of Madrid and Rome; the Bund in Shanghai; and the eight-story rooftop Namba Park in Osaka. In each case, this lecture will examine the relationship between the design of the public space to its defining buildings and adjacent context, as well as its linkages to other public spaces in the city. The intent of this lecture is to help students understand how the design and character of public space emerges from numerous circumstances and constraints, and how architectural design must follow upon specific intentions to create gathering places of enduring quality.

The building case study for this lecture will be the Blaak Station Market Hall by MVRDV. How can an iconic building simultaneous become public space? How can public space in turn be thought of architecturally in the form of an iconic building?

Class Readings:
Public Space: Typologies, from “The City Assembled,” by Spiro Kostof, pg. 144-164

November 6: Housing & the Urban Fabric: Los Angeles, London, Vancouver
Building Case Study – Linked Hybrid, China by Steven Holl; Seven Fountains, West Hollywood by Moule & Polyzoides; Rokko Housing, Japan, by Tadao Ando

This lecture will focus on typological variations of housing and how the conscious assembly of these typologies generate larger low-, mid-, and high-density places of specific character and quality. Case studies will include the bungalow neighborhoods of Los Angeles, the mid-rise perimeter blocks of London, and the street-friendly high-rise buildings of Vancouver. This lecture will also examine housing at the larger scale of the cluster and the neighborhood, extracting the physical elements that constitute these places. This lecture will also help students understand the relationship between residential density, building massing and street character, and how the architecture of housing at all scales can and should be understood as more than an isolated building and project.

Building case studies include three projects: Linked Hybrid, China by Steven Holl; Seven Fountains, West Hollywood by Moule & Polyzoides; and Rokko Housing, Japan, by Tadao Ando. The intent behind selecting these three is to show students different approaches to housing design, at various densities, and with various physical and historical contexts.

Class Readings:
Housing Typologies: From Block to Building by John Ellis

Building Case Study – Benjamin Franklin College and Pauli Murray Colleges, Yale University, by Robert A. M. Stern; Fred & Ginger Dancing House, Prague by Frank Gehry & Vlado Milunič
This lecture will analyze the urban block as the intermediate architectural element between the individual building and the district. How has the block seen physical variations in size, shape, and three-dimensional form? How do adjacent blocks and their buildings combine to make intersections, gateways and transitions? How is the architecture of the block related to these size and shape limitations? Case studies will include the blocks of Barcelona, and Michigan Avenue in Chicago; Rockefeller Center, New York; and a comparison between the mid-19th-century perimeter blocks of Berlin with its contemporaneous Bushwick neighborhood block in Brooklyn. The intent of this lecture is to highlight one of the most underestimated elements of the contemporary urban landscape and challenge students to reconsider the individual building as part of this element.

The building case studies for this lecture will be two very different examples in both scale and style in an effort to instigate students to reflect deeper on the multiplicity of architectural approaches at a block scale. The first of these is these is the recently completed Benjamin Franklin College and Pauli Murray Colleges at Yale University. The second is the famous riverfront Dancing House building in Parque.

Class Readings:
The Tall Building Urbanistically Reconsidered by Stuart Cohen
Designing the Urban Block: Best Practices in Los Angeles, by Vinayak Bharne

November 20: The Monument & the Building: Chandigarh, Abu Dhabi, Bilbao
Building Case Study – Ronchamp Chapel Convent & Visitor Center by Renzo Piano

This final lecture will examine the potential and power of monumental architecture within the urban landscape. How does one decide on the siting of a monumental building within the city? To what degree have monumental buildings transformed or failed to influence their surroundings? How has ambitious architectural form consciously responded to or contrasted with the traditional city? To what degree have large architectural investments generated social and economic reform? Discussion will include The Capital Complex in Chandigarh designed by Le Corbusier; the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao by Frank Gehry; 3), and the Louvre in Abu Dhabi by Jean Nouvel. This final lecture will bookend the class through a discursive narrative on the promise and limitations of architectural innovation and monumentality.

The building case study for this final lecture will be the Ronchamp Chapel Convent & Visitor Center (2011). How does one design next to one of the century’s most important modern building – the Ronchamp Chapel (1955) by Le Corbusier? How does new architecture dialog with existing iconism?

Class Reading:
Le Corbusier’s Ruin: The Changing Face of Chandigarh’s Capitol by Vinayak Bharne
Tensions Manifested: Rereading the Viceroy’s House in New Delhi by Aseem Inam

November 27: No Class. Thanksgiving Break

December 4: Assignment Discussion. Last Day of Class

December 13: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Submission of Final Assignment in Class

Bibliography & References

Joan et al (editors,) “Manhattan: Rectangular Grid for Ordering an Island”
de Muelder Bruno & Shannon Kelly, “Water Urbanisms East”
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421 studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

**USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710**
studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

**Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101**
diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

**USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call**
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Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

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dps.usc.edu
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