ADAPTIVE REUSE SYLLABUS
In the Fall 2012 semester we will discuss adaptive re-use in a very wide context, applying it to questions of conservation in both town and country, and then discussing large building complexes.

Our first discussion will be of rural/peripheral areas (with the southern Hebrides as a case study), where development is putting great pressure on the adaptation and conservation of vernacular buildings and their settings. This will lead us into more wide-ranging discussions of the relationship of town and country. We will examine how attitudes in recent years have changed, leading to a much more complex view of the landscape that blurs the traditional boundary between town and country.

We will visit Liverpool for a weekend. This will enable us to see the challenges that a post-industrial city is facing in conserving and adapting its splendid inheritance of historic buildings and townscapes. We will look at the conflicts between proposed developments of the former north docks, and the Liverpool World Heritage Site. We will focus on proposals for the conservation and adaptation of Stanley Dock and the Tobacco Warehouse (reputed to be the largest brick building in the world), in the light of previous adaptation-based projects, for instance at Albert Dock.

We will also visit the 2012 Olympics site and discuss the many issues of adaptation that arise, in the design of the buildings so that they can be re-used, and in the legacy strategy for the landscape.

We will visit two other building complexes in London, where questions of change, conservation and re-use can be seen and analysed: the University of London Senate House and Central Site, and the University of the Arts project at the former Kings Cross Goods Yard.

The final case study will look at the development of Tate Modern (formerly an electricity generating station), both the original adaptation strategy and the recent conversion of the oil tanks. This is the first of a series of power stations case studies, which will continue in the second semester.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:
1. Each student will be assigned the role of introducing and facilitating a seminar, jointly with another student.

2. Each student will be required to submit a 3,000-word essay on the following topic: Does the distinction between town and country have any significance for the re-use of buildings in Britain today?

SESSION 1: Introduction to the course
Change and flexibility in buildings; Design, use and re-use; Locality and adaptation
SESSION 2: The Periphery
Many rural and coastal areas are under intense pressure for development. This in turn creates pressures for the demolition and adaptation of vernacular
buildings and settings. The southern Hebrides is the focus for a case study, with worked examples of how architects respond to the challenges.

**Readings:** Extracts from: Elizabeth Beaton *Scotland’s Traditional Houses*; Daniel Maudlin *The Highland House Transformed*; Argyll and Bute Council Design Guide; [www.dualchas.com](http://www.dualchas.com) [www.ruraldesign.co.uk](http://www.ruraldesign.co.uk); [www.mkmacleod.co.uk](http://www.mkmacleod.co.uk)

**Session 3:** The Inhabited Landscape
Ideas of conservation of buildings (and therefore ideas of adaptation) in Britain are based on an understanding that the entire landscape has been modified many times by human beings. Therefore ideas of beauty and conservation are not based on a distinction between wilderness and development (as they may be in North America), but on the idea that the evidence of human occupation is everywhere.

**Readings:** Extracts from: William Wordsworth *Guide to the Lake Counties*; Ed. Clough Williams-Ellis *Britain and the Beast*; W.G. Hoskins *The Making of the English Landscape*; Raymond Williams *The Country and the City*

**Session 4:** Town and Country Planning: the mid 20th Century Settlement
Between 1944 and 1967 a series of government policies were set in place – for example for listed buildings, National Parks and Conservation Areas – so that there was a close integration of planning development policy and the protection of the natural and human-made heritage.

**Readings:** Extracts from: Andrew Saint *How Listing Happened; Notes to Investigators* 1946; English Heritage Conservation Bulletin 62 Conservation Areas; *The Middleton on the Hill Parish Plan*

**Session 5:** The Landscape Re-considered: The “Unofficial Countryside” and Other Variants
Many writers have questioned the importance and value of the distinction between town and country in recent years. “Edgelands”, brownfield sites, ex-industrial zones are now seen as areas rich in history and human activity. At the same time “non-rural” aspects of the countryside – military installations, sites of radical activity etc. – are given greater importance.

**Visit:** *The Robinson Institute* Tate Britain

**Readings:** Extracts from: Patrick Keiller *The Robinson Institute* Tate Britain; Ian Sinclair London *Orbital*; Richard Mabey *The Unofficial Countryside*

**Session 6:** The landscape re-considered: the urban-industrial landscape
The conservation and adaptation of former industrial sites is now a key feature of heritage policy. However the adaptation of such buildings raises difficult questions for designers, particularly in the context of the search for “authenticity” in the feel of the adapted environment.

**Visit:** Kings Cross Central

**Readings:** Extracts from: eds: Michael Hunter and Robert Thorne *Change at Kings Cross*; David Lowenthal *The Past is a Foreign Country*

**Session 7:** Liverpool: the Historical Context and the Urban Setting
**Movie:** *Of Time and the City* (directed by Terence Davies)

**Readings:** Extracts from: Lionel Brett *A Broken Wave*; Commentary by seminar leaders on *Of Time and the City*

**Session 8:** Liverpool: conflicts of renewal and conservation
Session 9: Liverpool visit and seminar
We will travel to Liverpool on the evening of 26 October and stay two nights. There will be a program of visits and a seminar on the Saturday evening. A detailed program for the weekend will be issued in due course.

Session 10: Senate House and the re-making of Bloomsbury
The University of London has been adapting and transforming the building stock of Bloomsbury since the early twentieth century. The process continues, with an increased emphasis on adaptation of existing buildings and sites.


Sessions 11 & 12: Olympic Legacy: site visit
For this and the following session the following sources provide different viewpoints on the re-use of the buildings and landscape on and around the Olympic site:

- www.leavalleydrift.com for an overview of the area
- www.spacestudios.org for information on the use of old industrial buildings as artists’ studios. Note particularly the profile of the White Building and read the Legacy Now Manifesto
- www.londonlegacy.co.uk this is the website of the public authority which is responsible for the re-use of the Olympic site
- www.designforlondon.gov.uk see the project reports on Hackney Wick and Fish Island
- www.ARC-ML.com for design proposals for a major development south of the Olympic Park. Go to project profiles of Strand East and Danes Yard

Session 13: Power stations 1: visit to Tate Modern
For an overview of the history of the building see http://www2.tate.org.uk/archivejourneys/historyhtml/bld_mod_architecture.htm

Session 14: What would Ruskin say?
Nineteenth century ideas of building conservation (outlined in Ruskin’s Lamp of Memory) are still influential in conservation and heritage policy and in attitudes to the adaptation of historic buildings. Do more recent formulations (such as English Heritage’s Conservation Principles) conform to this outlook? Are new ideas needed?

This will be an open debate in which the semester’s case studies and readings can be brought to bear on big questions of policy and theory.