

TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2013

Watt 212: M-W 10-11:50

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Office Hours: Watt 326, Monday: 12-1; or to be arranged

There are few regions in the world where it is more exciting to explore the scope of twentieth-century architecture than in Southern California. It is here that European and Asian influences combined with the local environment, culture, politics and vernacular traditions to create an entirely new vocabulary of regional architecture and urban form. Lecture topics range from the stylistic influences of the Arts and Crafts Movement and European Modernism to the impact on architecture and planning of the automobile, World War II, or the USC School of Architecture during the 1950s.

There will also be two class Saturday field trips TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Thomas S., Hines, *Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism, 1900-1970*, Rizzoli: New York, 2010. You can buy this on-line at a considerable discount.

Plus Readings on Blackboard.

OPTIONAL READING:

Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, 1971, reprint ed., Berkeley; University of California Press, 2001.

Barbara Goldstein, ed., *Arts and Architecture: The Entenza Years*, with an essay by Esther McCoy, 1990, reprint ed., Santa Monica, Hennessey and Ingalls, 1998.

Esther McCoy, *Five California Architects*, 1960, reprint ed., New York: Praeger, 1975.

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966*. Cologne: Taschen, 2007.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this syllabus. These readings should be completed before the lecture under which they are listed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

MIDTERM EXAM: March 13 (Paper Topic due same day, see below)

SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER

During the course of the semester you will be responsible for researching and documenting a specific local building, building type, or urban space. Possible topics, methods for developing bibliographies, documenting buildings, and evolving an appropriate research model will be discussed as the semester evolves. The instructor must approve topics in advance. Each student will be required to submit a one-page description of the paper topic and preliminary bibliography on **MARCH 13**.

A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper with appropriate citations and an expanded bibliography will be due **MAY 3**.

FINAL EXAM: May 7, 8 AM

GRADING:

Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Research Paper, including preliminary bibliography: 35%
Final Exam: 35%

ATTENDANCE:

Following the approved school policy, Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for make-up exams, acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades. For each unexcused absence beyond **two**, students' final grades will be lowered by one-half letter grade.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

NOTE: Two important exhibitions on Los Angeles architecture open during this semester. I will attempt to arrange field trips to these events at the the end of the semester.

Overdrive: LA Constructs the Future, 1940-1990 opens at the Getty on April
The New Sculpturalism: Contemporary Architecture in Southern California opens at MoCA on April 21

THERE WILL ALSO BE A FIELD TRIP TO THE FREEMAN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 12:30 PM

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN 14 Introduction

Hines, Introduction and Prologue, pp. 19. The BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves LA," can be viewed at: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1524953392810656786#>

JAN 16 Defining Place

BLACKBOARD 1. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930."
For a great collection of historical views of Los Angeles see:
<http://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>

JAN 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY-NO CLASS

JAN 23 The Rise of Anglo-American Los Angeles: 1850-1890

JAN 28 American Regionalism and the Mission Revival

BLACKBOARD 2. Thomas S. Hines, "Los Angeles Architecture: The Issue of Tradition in a Twentieth-Century City;" BLACKBOARD 3, Roberto Lint-Sagarena, "Building California's Past: Mission Revival Architecture and Regional Identity;" and BLACKBOARD 4. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California."

JAN 30 The Arts and Crafts Movement in Southern California

BLACKBOARD 5, Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life*.

FEB 4 Charles and Henry Green and the California Bungalow

Hines, chapter 1, "A Leaven in the Blood: Greene and Greene and the American Bungalow;" and BLACKBOARD 6. California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene."

FEB 6 Irving Gill and the Panama-California Exposition

Hines, chapter 2, "The Stone in the Meadow: The Achievement of Irving Gill;" and BLACKBOARD 7, Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country."

FEB 11 Irving Gill, cont.

BLACKBOARD 8. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 21-28.

FEB 13 Frank Lloyd Wright Arrives in LA

Hines, chapter 3, "A Shooting Star: Frank Lloyd Wright in Southern California."

FEB 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY-NO CLASS The Persistence of Historicism and its

FEB 20 Frank Lloyd Wright: Textile Block Houses

BLACKBOARD 9. Kathryn Smith, "Chicago-Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection; and BLACKBOARD 10. Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House."

FEB 23: SATURDAY FREEMAN HOUSE FIELD TRIP: 12:30 PM

FEB 25 R. M. Schindler in the early 20s

Hines, chapter 5, "A Continual Becoming: Rudolph Schindler's Journey to the Future, 1887-1928;" BLACKBOARD 11, R, M, Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground" (scroll down in the pdf to find this); and BLACKBOARD 12. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders."

FEB 27 The “Other” 1920s

Hines, chapter 4, “Over the Top: Loyd Wright and Art Deco in Los Angeles.”

Mar 1 Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the Spanish Colonial Revival and the Los Angeles Public Library

BLACKBOARD 13. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)"

MAR 3 City Beautiful in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara

MAR 6 The Impact of the Automobile

BLACKBOARD 14. Richard Longstreth, “Fabulous Boulevard”

MAR 11 Austria and LA: Richard Neutra in the later 20s

Hines, chapter 6, “California Calls You: The Brave New World of Richard Neutra, 1892-1932;” and BLACKBOARD 15. Philip M. Lovell, “The Home Built for Health.”

**MAR 13 Mid-term Exam
PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

MAR 18-23 SPRING BREAK

MAR 25 Modernism in the 1930s

Hines, chapters, 7, 8 and 9

MAR 27 Housing Los Angeles During for the Great Depression

APR 1 World War II and the Dream of Mass-produced Housing

BLACKBOARD 22. Dolores Hayden, Model Houses for the Millions: Architects’ Dreams, Builders’ Boasts, Residents’ Dilemmas.”

APR 3 The Early Years of the Case Study Program: 1945-1950

Hines, chapter 10, “A Model Modernism: The Architects and Fellow Travelers of the Case Study Program;” BLACKBOARD 17-17e. *Arts and Architecture*, January, 1945, December 1945, November 1947, December 1948, May 1949, and December 1949; and BLACKBOARD 18. USC School of Architecture. *The Villageaire Home*, Los Angeles, 1948.

**APR 8 The Post-War House
Trudi Sandmeier, guest lecturer**

BLACKBOARD 19. Excerpt from D J. Waldie, *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*, New York, 1997.

**APR 10 Corporate Modernism and Urban Renewal in the 50s and 60s
Trudi Sandmeier, guest lecturer**

Hines, chapter 12, “Building Big: The Corporate Modernism of Postwar Los Angeles: Welton Becket and William Pereira.”

APR 15 Post-War Modernism/ The Case Study Program II

Hines, chapter 11, "Regionalism and Rationalism: The Late Work of Richard Neutra, 1945-1970.

APR 17 Architectural Education in Los Angeles: 1940-1990

BLACKBOARD 20. Ken Breisch, "Professional and Educational Discourse: training the Next Generation of Architects in Los Angeles." In *Overdrive: LA Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*

APR 22 The Organic Tradition of Lloyd Wright and John Lautner

Hines, chapter 12, "Regionalism and Expressionism: the Modernism of John Lautner."

APR 24 "Post Modernism"

BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves LA."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1524953392810656786#>

APR 29 Frank Gehry

BLACKBOARD 21. Reyner Banham, "Building Inside Out."

May 1 The "LA School?"

BLACKBOARD 22. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Context," and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular;" and BLACKBOARD 23. Matt Tyrnauer, "Architecture in the Age of Gehry."

**May 3 Conclusion and Review
SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

MAY 7 FINAL EXAM: 8-10 AM

BLACKBOARD READING SOURCES

1. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930" *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 3-55
2. Thomas S. Hines, "Los Angeles Architecture: The Issue of Tradition in a Twentieth-Century City," from David G. De Long, et al., eds., *American Architecture: Innovation and Tradition*, New York, 1986, 112-129
3. Roberto Lint-Sagarena, "Building California's Past: Mission Revival Architecture and Regional Identity," *Journal of Urban History* 28:4 (2002) 429-44
4. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California," *The Craftsman* 5 (October 1903-March 1904) 458-469
5. Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life: The Arts & Crafts Architects of California*, Berkeley, 1997, pp. 1-6
6. "California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene," *The Craftsman* Vol. 22, (August 1912) pp. 532-547
7. Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country," *The Craftsman* 30 (May 1916) 141-152

8. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 21-28
9. Kathryn Smith, "Chicago—Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 5-11
10. Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House" in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, Los Angeles, 1990, pp. 13-19
11. R. M. Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground," in Philip M. Lovell, "Care of The Body," Los Angeles Times (2 May 1926) 27-28 (scroll down in the pdf to find this)
12. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c.1996.
13. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 26 (May 1967) 131-147
14. Richard Longstreth, "Fabulous Boulevard," from *City Center to Regional Mall*, Cambridge, MA, 1997, pp. 104-141
15. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health," in "Care of The Body," Los Angeles Times (15 December 1929) 26
16. Dolores Hayden, Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas," in *Blueprints for Modern Living*, Cambridge, MA, 1989, pp. 197-211
17. *Arts and Architecture*, January, 1945
- 17a. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1945
- 17b. *Arts and Architecture*, November 1947
- 17c. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1948
- 17d. *Arts and Architecture*, May 1949
- 17e. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1949
18. USC School of Architecture. *The Villageaire Home*, Los Angeles, 1948
19. Excerpt from D J. Waldie, *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*, New York, 1997.
20. Ken Breisch, "Professional and Educational Discourse: training the Next Generation of Architects in Los Angeles." In *Overdrive: LA Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*
21. Reyner Banham , ""Building Inside Out," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c. 1996
22. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Contexts" and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular," from Aaron Betsky, et. al., *Experimental Architecture in Los Angeles*, New York, 1990
23. Matt Tyrnauer, "Architecture in the Age of Gehry," *Vanity Fair*, (August, 2008))
<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2010/08/architecture-survey-201008>

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- Davis, Margaret Leslie, *Rivers in the Desert: William Mulholland and the Inventing of Los Angeles*, New York: Harper Collins, 1993
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