TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2017
Harris 102: M-W 10-11:50
Instructor: Ken Breisch: breisch@usc.edu
Office Hours: Watt 326, most 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

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.


Readings in Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONAL READING:


UNDERGRADUATE SEMESTER PAPERS:

Undergraduate assignment 1: Write a five-page paper describing Seeley Wintersmith Mudd Hall of Philosophy and what you see as its historical sources. **DUE MARCH 26** (late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue). **SUBMIT THIS THROUGH TURNITIN**

Undergraduate assignment 2: Write a five-page paper (typed, double spaced) describing the elements of the USC Ecumenical Religious Center (Killingsworth, Brady and Smith, 1966) that best reflect the tradition of Post-World War II modernism in Southern California. You can reference class readings for comparisons. You may attach sketches and/or photographs to illustrate your paper. **DUE APRIL 26** (late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue). **SUBMIT THIS THROUGH TURNITIN**

GRADUATE 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 6**.

A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper with **appropriate citations** and an expanded bibliography will be due **APRIL 26**.
CRITICAL DATES

FEBRUARY 18: FREEMAN HOUSE FIELD TRIP: SATURDAY AFTERNOON
MARCH 6: GRADUATE PAPER TOPIC OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
FIRST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE
MARCH 8: MIDTERM EXAM
APRIL 26: SECOND UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE
GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPER DUE
FINAL EXAM: May 8, 8-10 AM

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING:

Midterm Exam: 25%
Paper Assignment 1: 20%
Paper Assignment 2: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

GRADUATE 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. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Students’ final grades will be lowered by one-half letter grade for each absence beyond that.

Medical and family emergencies are the only acceptable excuses for acceptance of late assignments, make-up exams, or the granting of incomplete grades. Without an acceptable excuse, a full grade will be deducted for every day late. No assignment will be accepted after the third day late.

The university recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The university provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absences and make up for lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the drop add date for registration.

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. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.
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 University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/COURSE CONTINUITY IN A CRISIS

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN 9  Introduction


JAN 11  Defining Place


JAN 16  MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY -- NO CLASS

JAN 18  The Rise of Anglo-American Los Angeles: 1850-1915

JAN 23  Railroads, Resorts and a Mythic Spanish Past

JAN 25  The Arts and Crafts Movement in Southern California


JAN 30  Charles and Henry Green and the California Bungalow


FEB 1  Irving Gill and the Panama-California Exposition


FEB 1  Late Irving Gill
FEB 6  Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles


FEB 8  Frank Lloyd Wright’s Experiments with Concrete

BLACKBOARD 7. Kathryn Smith, “Chicago-Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection; and

FEB 13  R. M. Schindler in the 1920s


FEB 15  Spanish and Mediterranean Revivals


SATURDAY, FEB 18: FREEMAN HOUSE AND SCHINDLER HOUSE FIELD TRIP. TO BE CONFIRMED

FEB 20  PRESIDENT’S DAY -- NO CLASS

FEB 22  The Lure of the Exotic: Lloyd Wright, Robert Stacy Judd and the Mayan Revival

FEB 27  Santa Barbara and the City Beautiful Movement

MAR 1  Automobile City

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

MAR 6  Austria and LA: Richard Neutra arrives in LA

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER TOPIC DESCRIPTION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE FIRST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE


MAR 8  Mid-term Exam

MAR 13-17  SPRING BREAK

MAR 20  Modernism in the 1930s

Hines, chapter, 7, The Frame for Life,” pp. 317-351, and chapter, 8: Modern to the Minute, 365-411

MAR 22  The Great Depression

Hines, chapter, 8: Modern to the Minute, 411-429, and chapter, 9 (this covers material before and after WW II, so will relate to later lectures as well), “Disciples and Masters.”
MAR 27    World War II and the Dream of Mass-produced Housing

BLACKBOARD 12. Dolores Hayden, Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas."

MAR 29    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," and BLACKBOARD 13, Selected Case Study Houses in Arts and Architecture

APR 3    The Post-War House


APR 5    Post-War Modernism and the Case Study Program: Part II


APR 10    Corporate Modernism in the 1950s and 60s


APR 12    The Organic Tradition of Lloyd Wright and John Lautner

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

APR 17    "Post Modernism” and “Historic Preservation"

Watch the BBC TV Show “Reyner Banham Loves LA:"
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1524953392810656786#

APR 19    Frank Gehry and the “LA School"


APR 24    Recent Work

APR 26    Conclusion and Review

SECOND UNDERGRADUATE PAPERS AND GRADUATE SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

MAY 8    FINAL EXAM: 8-10 AM

BLACKBOARD READINGS:


2. 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


6. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, “Irving Gill and the Aiken System,” in Kathryn Smith, et al., Concrete in California, pp. 21-28

7. Kathryn Smith, “Chicago—Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection,” in Kathryn Smith, et al., Concrete in California, pp. 5-11


13. Case Study Articles from Arts and Architecture
   13a. Arts and Architecture, January 1945
   13b. Arts and Architecture, December 1945
   13c. Arts and Architecture, November 1947
   13d. Arts and Architecture, December 1948
   13e. Arts and Architecture, May 1949
   13f. Arts and Architecture, December 1949


SEE BLACKBOARD FOR AN EXTENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY