

HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM:

ARCH 553: Fall 2010

Harris 101: Tuesdays 6:30-9:30

Ken Breisch: breisch@usc.edu

Office Hours: Watt 326, Tuesdays: 4-5; or to be arranged

Architecture 553 examines the impact of politics, culture and the environment on the evolution of American architectural and urban forms from prehistory to World War II. The class explores the interchange between European architectural theory and indigenous and vernacular influences as they came together to create new national and regional forms of building and urban design. While generally chronological in presentation, lectures also examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of form and meaning in the American landscape.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Dell Upton, Architecture in the United States (Oxford History of Art), Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1998 (also available through USC Electronic Library Resources. Click Browse E-Journals/E-Books and enter "Architecture in the United States")

Mark Gelernter, A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context, Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999

Keith L. Eggener, American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader, London and New York: Routledge, 2004.

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH LITTLE OR NO BACKGROUND IN THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU READ: Leland M. Roth, Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, And Meaning, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2006

READING:

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.

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 **October 26**. A ten-page, double-spaced paper, with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography will be due on **November 30**.

GRADING:

Preliminary Paper Proposal and Bibliography 5%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Research Paper: 30 %

Final Exam: 35%

ATTENDANCE:

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. More than **two** unexcused absences will result in **a failing grade** for the class.

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/>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUG 24 INTRODUCTION: First Americans: Pre-Contact Traditions in the American Southwest

Keith L. Eggner, "Introduction," American Architectural History, pp. 1-22; Gelernter, A History of American Architecture, pp. xi-34; and Peter Nabakov and Robert Easton, " 'Modifying factors' in Native American Architecture," American Architectural History, pp. 38-50

AUG 31 Indigenous Peoples in the American Southwest , cont.

SEP 7 Building in New Spain

Gelernter, pp. 35-50; and Marc Treib, "Church design and construction in Spanish New Mexico," American Architectural History, pp. 51-72

SEP 14 Native American Architecture and the Persistence of Medieval European Building in Eastern North America

Upton, pp. 11-55; Gelernter, pp. 51-64

SEP 21 The Georgian Renaissance

Gelernter, pp. 64-106; and Dell Upton, "Space: parish churches, courthouses, and dwellings in colonial Virginia," 73-91

SEP 28 Imagining the New Republic:

W. Barksdale Maynard, "The Greek Revival: Americanness, politics and economics," American Architectural History, pp. 132-41

OCT 5 Inventing an Iconography of Expansion and Power

Upton, pp. 57-105; Gelernter, pp. 106-43; Mary N. Woods, "The first professional: Benjamin Henry Latrobe," American Architectural History, pp. 112-31; and

OCT 12 MIDTERM EXAM

OCT 19 The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on the American Landscape/REVIEW

Upton, pp. 149-185; and Gelernter, pp. 153-165; John R. Stilgoe, "National design: mercantile cities and the grid," American Architectural History, pp. 23-38; and John Michael Vlach, "The plantation landscape," American Architectural History, pp. 93-111

**OCT 26 Parks, Suburbs and the Ideal of Nature
PRELIMINARY PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Upton, pp. 107-147; Gelernter, pp. 143-153; and Gwendolyn Wright, "Independence and the rural cottage," American Architectural History, pp. 142-154

NOV 2 Inventing an "American" Architecture

Gelernter, pp. 166-189; and Kenneth L. Ames, "First impressions: front halls and hall furnishings in Victorian America," American Architectural History, pp. 155-176

NOV 9 Monuments to Commerce: Chicago and the Rise of the Tall Office Building

Upton, pp. 187-245; Gelernter, pp. 190-229; Daniel Bluestone, "A city under one roof," Chicago skyscrapers, 1860-1895," American Architectural History, pp. 177-205; and Mona Domosh, "Creating New York's nineteenth-century retail district," American Architectural History, pp. 206- 26

NOV 16 City Beautiful and the Conquest of the West

Richard Guy Wilson, "Architecture and the reinterpretation of the past in the American renaissance," American Architectural History, pp. 227-245; and Robert W. Rydell, "A cultural Frankenstein? The Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893," American Architectural History, pp. 247-266

NOV 23 Frank Lloyd Wright and the Origins of an American Avant-Garde

Gelernter, pp. 214-229; James F. O'Gorman, "The prairie house," American Architectural History, pp. 267-280; and Anthony Alofsin, "Wright, influence, and the world at large," American Architectural History, pp. 281-29

NOV 30 Tradition and Innovation Between the Wars, REVIEW
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Upton, pp. 247-283; Gelernter, pp. 230-259; and Margaret Kentgens-Craig, "The search for modernity: America, the International Style and the Bauhaus," American Architectural History, pp. 294-312

DEC 14 FINAL EXAM: 7-9 PM

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