

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.

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.

Readings in Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED 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.

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

Thomas S. Hines, Introduction and Prologue, pp. 19. The BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles," can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/22488225>

JAN 11 Defining Place

BLACKBOARD 1. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930."

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

BLACKBOARD 2. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California;" and BLACKBOARD 3, Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life*.

JAN 30 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 4. California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene."

FEB 1 Irving Gill and the Panama-California Exposition

Hines, chapter 2, "The Stone in the Meadow: The Achievement of Irving Gill;" and BLACKBOARD 5, Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country."

FEB 1 Late Irving Gill

FEB 6 Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles

Hines, chapter 3, "A Shooting Star: Frank Lloyd Wright in Southern California;" and BLACKBOARD 6. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 21-28.

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

Hines, chapter 5, "A Continual Becoming: Rudolph Schindler's Journey to the Future, 1887-1928;" BLACKBOARD 8, Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground" (scroll down in the pdf to find this); and BLACKBOARD 9. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders."

FEB 15 Spanish and Mediterranean Revivals

BLACKBOARD 10. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)"

**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**

Hines, chapter 6, "California Calls You: The Brave New World of Richard Neutra, 1892-1932;" and BLACKBOARD 11. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health."

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

Hines, chapter, 7, "The Frame for Life," pp. 351-363, and review Hines, chapter, 9, "Disciples and Masters."

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

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

APR 10 Corporate Modernism in the 1950s and 60s

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

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"

BLACKBOARD 14. Reyner Banham, "Building Inside Out."

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:

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. 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

3. Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life: The Arts & Crafts Architects of California*, Berkeley, pp. 1-6
4. "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
5. 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
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
8. 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)
9. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c.1996.
10. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 26 (May 1967) 131-147
11. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health," in "Care of The Body," *Los Angeles Times* (15 December 1929) 26
12. Dolores Hayden, *Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas*, in *Blueprints for Modern Living*, Cambridge, MA, 1989, pp. 197-211
13. Case Study Articles from *Arts and Architecture*
 13. *Arts and Architecture*, January 1945
 - 13a. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1945
 - 13b. *Arts and Architecture*, November 1947
 - 13c. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1948
 - 13d. *Arts and Architecture*, May 1949
 - 13e. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1949
14. Reyner Banham, "Building Inside Out," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c. 1996

SEE BLACKBOARD FOR AN EXTENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY