

TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2019

Watt 212: Tuesdays 3 to 5:50

Instructor: Ken Breisch: breisch@usc.edu

Office Hours: Watt 326, Tuesdays: 1:30-2:30; 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 READING:

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 and online.

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.

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.

For a great collection of historical views of Los Angeles see:

<http://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>

TO SEE: *Architects of a Golden Age: Highlights from The Huntington's Southern California Architecture Collection*, The Huntington, Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, **Ends January 21**, <http://www.huntington.org/architects-golden-age>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

UNDERGRADUATE SEMESTER PAPERS:

Undergraduate assignment : Write an 8 to 10-page (about 2,000 2,500 words) paper comparing the USC United University Church, 817 West 34th Street with the USC Ecumenical Religious Center, 835 W 34th Street. These two buildings represent the significant shift in architectural form that occurred in Southern California between 1931 and 1966. How does this relate to broader trends in architecture on the USC campus and Southern California at this time. Think about the fact that they also represent very different ways of expressing religious faiths. This should be a research paper but think closely about the differences between these two buildings. What may have caused this, and how does this affect your experience of form and space. The paper should be typed and double-spaced with appropriate citations. You may attach sketches and/or photographs to illustrate your paper. **DUE APRIL 16 (late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue).**

SUBMIT THIS THROUGH TURNITIN IN BLACKBOARD.

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 **FEBRUARY 26**.

A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper with **appropriate citations** and an expanded bibliography will be due **APRIL 23**.

CRITICAL DATES

FEBRUARY 23: FREEMAN AND SCHINDLER HOUSE FIELD TRIP: SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 26: GRADUATE PAPER TOPIC OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
MARCH 5: MIDTERM EXAM
APRIL 27: UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE
APRIL 23: GRADUATE PAPER DUE
MAY 7:4:30, FINAL EXAM:

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING:

Midterm Exam: 25%
Assignment 1: 20%
Assignment 2: 20%
Final Exam: 35%

GRADUATE GRADING:

Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Research Paper 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.**

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN 8 Appropriating Southern California

Hines, Introduction and Prologue, pp. 19.

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

Mike Sonken, "Avila Adobe," 1818.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0002.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Ken Breisch, "Bradbury Building," 1891–1893, *Sumner P. Hunt and George Herbert Wyman; 1989–1991 rehabilitation*, Brenda Levin.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0061.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

JAN 15 A Fabrication of Place

BLACKBOARD 2. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California."

BLACKBOARD 3, Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life*.

Mary Ovnick, "Lummis House, El Alisal," 1897–1910, *Charles Fletcher Lummis*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0090.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

JAN 22 Charles and Henry Green and the California Bungalow

Hines, chapter 1, "A Leaven in the Blood: Greene and Greene and the American Bungalow."

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

JAN 29 Irving Gill and the Panama-California Exposition

Hines, chapter 2, "The Stone in the Meadow: The Achievement of Irving Gill."

BLACKBOARD 5, Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country."

FEB 5 Frank Lloyd Wright and His Impact

Hines, chapters 3,& 5 "A Shooting Star: Frank Lloyd Wright in Southern California," & "A Continual Becoming: Rudolph Schindler's Journey to the Future, 1887-1928,"

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

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

BLACKBOARD 9. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders."

FEB 19 Spanish and Mediterranean Revivals and the City Beautiful Movement

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

Ken Breisch, "Angeles Public Library," 1922–1926, *Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, Carleton Monroe Watkins Sr., and Lee Oskar Lawrie; 1985–1993 rehabilitation, Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates; Lawrence Halprin with Douglas and Regula Campbell, landscape architects.*

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0087.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

FEB 23 FREEMAN HOUSE AND SCHINDLER HOUSE FIELD TRIP

FEB 26 Automobile City

GRADUATE PAPER TOPIC OUTLINE AND PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

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

Megan Kendrick, "Bullocks Wilshire," 1928–1929, *John and Donald Parkinson.*

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0062.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

MAR 5 MIDTERM / Richard Neutra Arrives in Town

MAR 12 SPRING BREAK

MAR 19 Richard Neutra and Modernism in the 1930s

Hines, chapters 6-9, "California Calls You: The Brave New World of Richard Neutra, 1892-1932," "The Frame for Life," "Modern to the Minute" and "Disciples and Masters."
BLACKBOARD 11. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health."

The Great Depression

Christoph Komer, "Arroyo Seco Parkway," 1938–1940; 1953 extension; 2010 improvements.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0055.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Holly Kane, "Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal," 1937–1939, *John Parkinson, Donald Parkinson, H.L. Gilman, J.H. Christie, and R.J. Wirth.*

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0098.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

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.*

Elizabeth Falletta, "Baldwin Hills Village," 1942, *Reginald D. Johnson and Wilson, Merrill and Alexander; Clarence Stein, consulting architect.*

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0057.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Anthony Denzer, "Avenel Homes," 1947, *Gregory Ain; Garrett Eckbo, landscape architect.*

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0056.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

MAR 26 The Introduction of the Case Study Program: 1945-1950 and other Post-War Housing Experiments

Hines, chapter 10, "A Model Modernism: The Architects and Fellow Travelers of the Case Study Program,"

BLACKBOARD 13, Selected Case Study Houses in *Arts and Architecture*

Katherine Kaford Papineau, "Eames House, Case Study House #8," 1945–1949, *Charles and Ray Eames*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0071.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

APR 2 Case Study Program: Part II / Post-War Modernism in the 50s and 60s

Hines, chapters 11 & 12, "Regionalism and Rationalism: The Late Work of Richard Neutra, 1945-1970," and "Building Big: The Corporate Modernism of Postwar Los Angeles: Welton Becket and William Pereira."

Volker M. Weleter, "Kaufmann House," 1946–1947, *Richard J. Neutra; 1993–1998 restoration, pool house, and landscape, Marmol and Radziner*

John Patterson. "Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building," 1948–1949, *Paul Revere Williams*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0092.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

APR 9 The Organic Tradition Lives On: Lloyd Wright and John Lautner / "Post Modernism?"

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

Frank Escher. "Chemosphere, Malin House," 1960, *John Lautner*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0067.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Sam Lubell, "LAX Theme Building," 1957–1961, *Pereira and Luckman and Associates (Gin Wong)*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0082.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Watch the BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves LA:"

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

APR 16 Frank Gehry and the "LA School"

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

Heather N. McMahon, "Frank Gehry Residence," 1920; 1977–1978 expansion, *Frank O. Gehry and Associates; 1991–1992 remodel, Frank O. Gehry and Associates*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0073.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Santa%20Monica%22>

Heather N. McMahon. "Walt Disney Concert Hall," 1991–2003, *Frank O. Gehry and Associates*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0100.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

APR 23 Recent Work / Review
GRADUATE SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Antoinette M. Guglielmo, "The Getty Center," 1984–1997, *Richard Meier and Partners*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0074.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22&start=21>

Ruth Wallach, "Caltrans District 7 Headquarters Replacement Building" 2001–2004, *Morphosis*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0070.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

Ruth Wallach, "New Carver Apartments," 2006–2009, *Michael Maltzan Architecture*.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0064.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22>

MAY 7 **FINAL EXAM: 4:30-6 PM**

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

ENTRIES IN SAH ARCHIPEDIA AS LISTED ABOVE: <https://sah-archipedia.org>

"Avila Adobe, 1818"

"Bradbury Building," 1891–1893, *Sumner P. Hunt and George Herbert Wyman*; 1989–1991

El Alisal," 1897–1910, *Charles Fletcher Lummis*.

"Angeles Public Library," 1922–1926, *Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, Carleton Monroe Watkins Sr., and Lee Oskar Lawrie*;

Bullocks Wilshire," 1928–1929, *John and Donald Parkinson*. "Arroyo Seco Parkway"

"Baldwin Hills Village," 1942, *Reginald D. Johnson and Wilson, Merrill and Alexander; Clarence Stein, consulting architect*.

"Avenel Homes," 1947, *Gregory Ain*;

"Eames House, Case Study House #8," 1945–1949, *Charles and Ray Eames*.

"Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building," 1948–1949, *Paul Revere Williams*.

"Chemosphere, Malin House," 1960, *John Lautner*.

"Frank Gehry Residence," 1920; 1977–1978 expansion, *Frank O. Gehry and Associates*; 1991–1992 remodel, *Frank O. Gehry and Associates*.

"Walt Disney Concert Hall," 1991–2003, *Frank O. Gehry and Associates*.

"The Getty Center," 1984–1997, *Richard Meier and Partners*.

"Caltrans District 7 Headquarters Replacement Building" 2001–2004, *Morphosis*

"New Carver Apartments," 2006–2009, *Michael Maltzan Architecture*.

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engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

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equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

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