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:

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:

For a great collection of historical views of Los Angeles see:
http://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html


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

https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0002.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22
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.”
https://sah-archipedia.org/detail%2Fcontent%2Fentries%2FCA-01-037-0090.xml?q=%28section%3ACA-01%29%20AND%20city%3A%22Los%20Angeles%22

JAN 22  Charles and Henry Green and the California Bungalow


JAN 29  Irving Gill and the Panama-California Exposition


FEB 5 Frank Lloyd Wright and His Impact

BLACKBOARD 8, Rudolf M. Schindler, “Shelter and Playground” (scroll down in the pdf to find this).
FEB 19 Spanish and Mediterranean Revivals and the City Beautiful Movement

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 IBIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

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


The Great Depression

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.”
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

BLACKBOARD 13, Selected Case Study Houses in Arts and Architecture
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

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

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


MAY 7 FINAL EXAM: 4:30-6 PM

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
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


ENTRIES IN SAH ARCHIPELGA AS LISTED ABOVE: https://sah-archipedia.org

“Avila Adobe, 1818”
“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;
“Caltrans District 7 Headquarters Replacement Building” 2001–2004, Morphosis

USC SUPPORT SYSTEMS:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.
Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421
studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710
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Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.