



USC University of Southern California

TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCH 404

Units: 3

Term—Day—Time: Spring 2021—Tuesdays—10:00am-12:50pm

Location: ZOOM

Instructor: Kenneth Breisch

Office Hours: Tuesdays—2-3pm or by appointment

Contact Info: breisch@usc.edu (I will respond to emails/voicemails within 24 hours Monday-Friday, and on the Monday following a weekend or holiday break)

Class Assistant: Ani Mnatsakanyan

Contact Info: anim@usc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. read and interpret architectural plans, sections and elevations
2. Identify major periods of development and architects in the history of Southern California architecture, planning and landscape design from prehistory to the present day
3. Critically analyze the relationship between architectural or landscape forms (sometimes identified with the idea of style) and the cultural, political and economic forces that shaped them

PREREQUISITE(S):

Students in this class come from a broad range of disciplines, some of whom will have a background in architecture, but this is not necessary to take this class. Architecture is an interdisciplinary field, so backgrounds in many other disciplines, such as history, sociology, economics, etc. will be welcome.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:

For students with little or no background in the history of architecture, I would recommend that you read: Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, and Meaning*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2006; and Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*, Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999.

COURSE NOTES

Because the pandemic has reduced this semester weeks of lecture time, I have tried to condense some of the lectures, but this may require some further adjustment to the course schedule during the last half of the semester. If possible, I would also like to schedule some zoom discussions, either as groups or with the whole class at times other than the scheduled class periods. Because you have differing class schedules participation will not be mandatory and will not reflect in your final grade, but this will allow for additional questions and student interaction outside of the lecture periods. Please note that I am always open to questions during the regularly scheduled lecture periods. I have also scheduled an office hour immediately after each class period and will try to be on zoom 15 minutes before each class. These times can be used to discuss course content, ask a question about USC or careers, or just to stop by and say hello. If you cannot attend my posted office hours, please email me to arrange another time that's convenient for both of us. You can also email me at breisch@usc.edu I will respond to emails/voicemails within 24 hours Monday-Friday, and on the Monday following a weekend or holiday break.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIRED

Students will need Internet access and a computer or tablet capable of accessing Zoom and Blackboard. If you need any of these technology resources to successfully participate in this class, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early January and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester. All zoom sessions will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously. To apply, please [submit an application](#).

To apply, please [at](#):

<https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/resources/technology-assistance/>

USC Technology Support Links

Zoom information for students: <https://keep-teaching.usc.edu/start-learning/>

Blackboard help for students: <https://studentblackboardhelp.usc.edu>

Software available to USC Campus: <https://software.usc.edu>

REQUIRED READING

Reynier Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, 1971, reprint ed., Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2009.

(note that there are multiple copies of this available on the internet, including a Kindle edition. Any of these will be acceptable)

Additional Weekly Reading is listed in Class Schedule Below. This should be completed before the lecture under which it is listed.

OPTIONAL READING:

Thomas S., Hines, *Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism, 1900-1970*, Rizzoli: New York, 2010.

Esther McCoy, *Five California Architects*, 1960, reprint ed., New York: Praeger, 1975.

McCoy, Esther, *The Second Generation*, Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, 1984 [Ain, Davidson, Harris and Soriano]

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966*. Cologne: Taschen, 2007.

For an interesting collection of historical views of Los Angeles see:

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

For the latter half of the class, you might also look at the Julius Shulman photo collection in the Getty Research Center:

https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/guides_bibliographies/shulman/index.html

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments in this class, will be essay format, including a take-home midterm and real-time final exam. You will be required to submit these as Word documents through Turnitin by the listed due date. As listed in the course schedule there will be two additional short essays. These will be described in more detail before they are due. The criteria for grading all essays are listed at the end of this syllabus. Work will be reduced by one-half grade for every day late.

GRADING

Note that undergraduate students will be able to choose a Pass/No Pass grading option in Spring through April 30. The deadline to withdraw from a course in Spring is likewise extended through April 30.

Assignment	% of Grade	Post Date	Due Date
Essay Assignment 1	20	JANUARY 26	FEBRUARY 16
Midterm Exam	25	MARCH 2	MARCH 9
Essay Assignment 2	20	MARCH 23	APRIL 13
Final Exam	35	MAY 11 8am	MAY 11 8am
Total	100		

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale.

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Attendance

This year is an exceptional year with COVID-19 forcing us to explore different teaching methods. Lectures will be given and recorded. The intent is that you will attend the regular lecture, and the recordings will serve as reminders as to what happened in class. We understand that there may be issues with this model. Please contact the instructors as soon as possible if you have concerns! The University of Southern California 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 absence and make up the 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. After the drop/add date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

Please contact Ken Breisch at breisch@usc.edu by the end of the second week of class if you anticipate conflicts with religious holidays including missing lectures, inability to finish homework assignments on-time, or other items that may hinder your work in this class.

ZOOM ETIQUETTE

USC policy does not require you to have your camera on during synchronous zoom sessions, but If you are willing, I encourage you to do this so that during discussions we might feel more in touch with one another. if you are unable or unwilling to do this, feel free to contact me with your concerns. Again, this is not a requirement.

SYNCHRONOUS SESSION RECORDING NOTICE

All zoom sessions will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously.

SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS OUTSIDE OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment:

SCampus Section 11.12(B):

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (SeeSection C.1 Class Notes Policy).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 JAN 19: The Appropriation of Southern California

TEXT: Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*

BLACKBOARD 1: William D. Estrada, "Chapter One: Cultural and Historical Origins," in *Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space*

Week 2 JAN 26: Invention of Place--~~Essay Assignment 1 Posted~~; Due FEBRUARY 16

BLACKBOARD 2. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930"

BLACKBOARD 3. Dell Upton, "Diversity in Architecture," *American Architecture*, 298-307

Ken Breisch, Bradbury Building <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0061>

Mary Ovnick, Lummis House <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0090>

Week 3 FEB 2: Irving Gill; and Charles and Henry Greene

BLACKBOARD 4, Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country"

BLACKBOARD 5. "California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene"

BLACKBOARD 6, Reyner Banham, "The Master Builder"

Week 4 FEB 9: Frank Lloyd Wright in Southern California

BLACKBOARD 7, Tom Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration," pp. 59-73

BLACKBOARD 8, Kathryn Smith, "Frank Lloyd Wright, Hollyhock House, and Olive Hill"

Week 5 FEB 16: R. M. Schindler and Lloyd Wright in the 1920s--Essay Assignment 1 Due

Judith Sheine, Schindler House, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0094>

BLACKBOARD 9, Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground"

Judith Sheine, Lovell Beach House, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-059-0108>

Week 6 FEB 23: Academic Eclecticism and the City Beautiful Movement

BLACKBOARD 10. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California"

Ken Breisch, Los Angeles Public Library <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0087>

BLACKBOARD 11, Ellen Weiss, Review of "Paul R. Williams, Architect: A Legacy Of Style" Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 53 (DECEMBER 1994) 478-480

Week 7 MAR 2: Automobile City

Megan Kendrick, Bullocks Wilshire <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0062>

Week 8 MAR 9: Richard Neutra and Modernism in the 1930s--Midterm Exam Posted

BLACKBOARD 12, Tom Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration," pp. 73-97

BLACKBOARD 13. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health"

Thomas Hines, Lovell House <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0089>

BLACKBOARD 14. Neil Jackson "Metal-Frame House,"

Week 9 MAR 16: Modernism in the 1930s , cont.--Midterm Exam Due

Week 10 MAR 23: WELLNESS DAY—No Class--Essay Assignment 2 Posted; Due APRIL 20

Week 11 MAR 30: The Great Depression and World War II

Christoph Komer, Arroyo Seco Parkway <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0055>

Holly Kane, Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal

<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0098>

Elizabeth Falletta, Village Green <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0057>

BLACKBOARD 15, Phoebe S. Kropp, "Citizens of the Past?: Olvera Street and the Construction of Race and Memory in 1930s Los Angeles,"

BLACKBOARD 16. Dana Cuff, "Emergenc(ity)," and "Aliso Village: Modern Housing, Modern Community," in *The Provisional City*, 23-27 and 152-166

Week 12 APR 6: Post War Housing

BLACKBOARD 17. Dana Cuff, "The Story of Westchester" in *The Provisional City*, 00. 240-263

Katherine Kford Papineau, Eames House <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0071>

BLACKBOARD 18-18e, Selected Case Study House Articles in *Arts and Architecture*

Week 13 APR 13: Modernism and Urban Renewal after the War

Volker M. Welter, Kaufmann House <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-065-0001>

Los Angeles Conservancy, Capitol Records Tower

<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0063>

BLACKBOARD 19. Dana Cuff, "And 10,000 More: Remaking Chaves Ravine" *The Provisional City*, pp. 272-300

Week 14 APR 20: Southern California during the last Decades of the 20th Century--Essay Assignment 2 Due

Frank Escher. Chemosphere <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0067>
BLACKBOARD 20. Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, Selected Projects in John Lautner, 1911-1994: Disappearing Space, Cologne: Taschen, 1999
Orhan Ayyuce, The Wayfarer's Chapel <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0103>
Sam Lubell, LAX Theme Building <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0082>
Meredith Drake Reitan, Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County
<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0085>
BLACKBOARD 21. Tom Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration," pp. 98-117.
 The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehab/stand.htm>
 Watch the BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves LA:"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIZONbC-YDo>

Week 15 APR 27 Frank Gehry and the "LA School?"

BLACKBOARD 22, Reyner Banham, "'Building Inside Out"
Heather N. McMahon, Frank Gehry Residence
<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0073>
Heather N. McMahon, Walt Disney Concert Hall
<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0100>
BLACKBOARD 23, Leon Whiteson and John Chase, in Experimental Architecture in Los Angeles
Antoinette M. Guglielmo, The Getty Center
<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0074>
Ruth Wallach, Caltrans District 7 Headquarters Replacement Building
<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0070>
Ruth Wallach, New Carver Apartments <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0064>

FINAL EXAM MAY 11: 8am

BLACKBOARD ARTICLES

1. William D. Estrada,. "Chapter One: Cultural and Historical Origins," in *Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space*, pp. 15-41
2. .Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 3-55
3. Dell Upton," *American Architecture: A Thematic History*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2020, 298-307
4. 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
5. California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene
6. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders," *A Critic Writes: Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c.1996.
7. Thomas Hines, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 59-73

8. Kathryn Smith, "Frank Lloyd Wright, Hollyhock House, and Olive Hill, 1914-1924," *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, vol. 38 (Mar 1979), 15-33
9. Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground," in Philip M. Lovell, "Care of The Body," *LA Times* (2 May 1926) 27-28
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. Ellen Weiss, Review of "Paul R. Williams, Architect: A Legacy Of Style" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 53 (DECEMBER 1994) 478-480
12. Thomas Hines, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 73-97
13. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health," in "Care of The Body," *LA Times* (15 December 1929) 26
14. Neil Jackson, "Metal-Frame Houses of the Modern Movement in Los Angeles: Part 1: Developing a Regional Tradition," *Architectural History*, vol. 32 (1989), pp. 152-172
15. Phoebe S. Kropp, "Citizens of the Past?: Olvera Street and the Construction of Race and Memory in 1930s Los Angeles," *Radical History Review*, Issue 81 (Fall 2001), 35-60
16. Dana Cuff, "Emergenc(ity)," *The Provisional City*, and "Aliso Village: Modern Housing," in *The Provisional City: Los Angeles Stories of Architecture and Urbanism*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000, pp. 23-27 and 152-166
17. Dana Cuff, "The Story of Westchester" *The Provisional City: Los Angeles Stories of Architecture and Urbanism*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000, pp. 240-263

FOLDER 18

18. Case Study House Announcement, *Arts and Architecture* (January 1945)
- 18a. "Case Study Houses 8 and 9," *Arts and Architecture* (December 1945)
- 18b. "CASE STUDY HOUSE #20," *Arts and Architecture* (November 1947)
18. "case study house #20," *Arts and Architecture* (December 1948)
- 18d. "CASE STUDY HOUSE FOR 1949: the plan," *Arts and Architecture* (May 1949}
- 18e. "CASE STUDY HOUSE FOR 1949," *Arts and Architecture* {December 1949|
19. Dana Cuff, "And 10,000 More: Remaking Chaves Ravine" *Provisional City: Los Angeles Stories of Architecture and Urbanism*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000, pp. 272-300
20. Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, *Selected Projects in John Lautner, 1911-1994: Disappearing Space*, Cologne: Taschen, 1999
21. Thomas Hines, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 98-117
22. Reyner Banham, ""Building Inside Out," *A Critic Writes: Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c. 1996, pp. 265-269
23. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Contexts" and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular," from Aaron Betsky, et. al., *Experimental Architecture in Los Angeles*, New York, 1991. Pp. 84-89 and 132-137

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community.

ARCH 404 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Burton, Pamela, and Marie Botnick, *Private Landscapes: Modernist Gardens in Southern California*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2002
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