

School of Architecture
University of Southern California

ARCH 214b: World History of Architecture

Fall 2021

Tuesdays and Thursdays

4:30pm-5:50pm

Faculty

Marcos Amado Petrolí, Ph.D., Adjunct Lecturer, amadopet@usc.edu

Leena Chaudhuri, Class Assistant, archaudh@usc.edu

Shadan Mirzaei, Class Assistant, shadanmi@usc.edu

Zixuan Zheng, Class Assistant, zhengzix@usc.edu


Meetings

In-person meetings: Harris Hall (HAR), Room 101

In-person classes require a mask. Refusal to comply with university masking policy is a disciplinary matter and should be referred to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards (SJACS): <https://sjacs.usc.edu/>.

Online meetings: Zoom Calls

Link (recurring meeting): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83040962649>

* Please check "Schedule" in this document to check which dates our meetings will be online or in-person. Online meetings are marked with the following icon: 

Description

This course is a global survey of architecture and urbanism from the mid-1500s to present. We will thoughtfully consider, discuss, critique, and explore a range of social, cultural, economic, and political forces that framed the many facets of the built environment locally, nationally, and globally. By the end of this course, students are expected to have developed a moderate sense of criticism, analytical skills, and research methodologies (familiarity with texts, databases, and other historical sources). Group discussions, classroom debates, and participation in class aim to create room for culturally responsive practices, where multiple voices, team collaboration, and innovative historical narratives can take place. Other requirements for this course include attendance at lectures and sections, responses to readings, quizzes, two exams, and two individual papers.

Course Goals

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Understand broadly the history of architecture from the mid-1500 CE to present;
- Identify key ideas in architecture, design, and city planning, based on different time periods, cultural norms, and constructive aspects presented in this course;
- Identify some of the architects and projects with which these ideas are associated;
- Understand how to read and interpret architectural design documents such as drawings and models;
- Read, write, and speak effectively about specific topics covered by the course.

Requirements

- Regular reading as indicated on this syllabus;
- Regular attendance;
- Active participation in group discussions;
- Two papers (scholarly written);
- Exam Part 1 (Midterm);
- Exam Part 2 (Final Exam).

Grading

Individual Paper 1	10%
First Group Discussion	10%
Exam 1 (Midterm)	30%
Individual Paper 2	10%
Second Group Discussion	10%
Exam 2 (Final Exam)	30%

* Grading penalty for late submissions: 10% of grade reduction within the first week after the deadline; 20% of grade reduction after the first week after the deadline. If you speak any other idiom, you are *encouraged* to bring bibliographies from your culture, translating it to one of the languages previously mentioned, yet including the original text in an endnote.

* Students are permitted two absences. Further absences are permitted only for legitimate reasons that are presented to the Class Assistants (e.g., observation of religious holidays, illness with doctor's note). Missing three classes or more without a reasonable explanation will automatically reduce your grade by one letter. Excessive absences may result in failing the course.

Grading Scale

A	≥ 93.5
A-	≥ 90.0
B+	≥ 87.5
B	≥ 83.5
B-	≥ 80.0
C+	≥ 77.7
C	≥ 73.5
C-	≥ 70.0
D+	≥ 67.5
D	≥ 63.5
D-	≥ 60.0
F	< 60.0

Refer to USC "Definition of Grades": <http://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=282>.

Group Discussions

Each student will be assigned to a section up to 25 students. During these meetings, it is a requirement to present and discuss the readings as determined by the instructor and section leaders. There will be several student presentation/discussion sessions for this course, where each student, as part of a team of about four (4), will present a selected reading and related architectural projects to the class. Each group will present two times in the semester. The other students in the class are then expected to ask questions and be able to discuss the readings and projects in a well-prepared way.

Section A: Leena (6 groups of four or five students)

Section B: Shay (6 groups of four or five students)

Section C: Zixuan (6 groups of four or five students)

All interactions in the sections and in the lecture class must be civil, respectful, and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students.

Attendance:

Classes begin promptly on the hour at the time stated in the course listings and all students are expected to be present promptly. Laptops, phones, tablets, etc., are *only* allowed for note taking, researching, and recording in the classroom.

All course work should be completed during the semester. Studio reviews, work deadlines in other classes, or extracurricular activities are not valid reasons for missing class, or requesting extensions.

Course Textbook:

- Francis D. K. Ching, Mark Jarzombek, and Vikramaditya Prakash, *A Global History of Architecture* (Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley, 2017), indicated here as “[Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash](#).”
- William J.R. Curtis, *Modern Architecture since 1900* (London: Phaidon, 2008), indicated here as “Curtis.”

Other Course Readings:

This text will be supplemented with readings from books as listed on the syllabus, including Marian Moffett, Michael W. Fazio, and Lawrence Wodehouse, *Buildings Across Time: an Introduction to World Architecture* (Boston, Mass: McGraw-Hill, 2018); Nikolaus Pevsner, *An Outline of European Architecture* (New York: Penguin, 2009). Also, Harry Francis Mallgrave, ed., *Architectural Theory*, vol. 1 and vol. 2 (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), indicated here as “Mallgrave.”

Other readings that you may also find useful include Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, and Meaning* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2007), Clare Cardinal-Pett, *A History of Architecture and Urbanism in the Americas* (London: Routledge, 2015); Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2014) and Alan Colquhoun, *Modern Architecture* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

The midterm (Exam 1) and final exam (Exam 2) [Essay Questions](#) will only be taken from the Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash book and the Curtis book.

Schedule:

08/24 - **Introduction to the course**

Presenting the syllabus, the textbook, the group discussions, the goals of this course, and other general requirements.

08/26 - **The Western Classical Tradition and its global context around 1500**

Reading: Nikolaus Pevsner, *An Outline of European Architecture*, Chapter 7, “Britain and France from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century,” pages 147–165.

08/31 - **Palladio; British Palladianism; Palladian references elsewhere European invasions of the Americas; Jesuit Architecture**

Reading: Nikolaus Pevsner, *An Outline of European Architecture*, Chapter 7, “Britain and France from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century,” pages 166-187.

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 539-542 (starting at “Palladio”); and pages 599-605 (starting at “The Anglican Church”).

Optional Reading: Mallgrave, "French Classicism: Ancients and Moderns," pages 70-77. Also, "British Classicism and Palladianism," pages 88-107.

Suggested website: <https://www.nicolaspoussin.org>.

09/2 - **Asian Dynasty Architectures in the Age of the Enlightenment**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 501-519 (starting at "Architecture for the Eurasian Power Bloc"), and pages 584-598 (starting at "China and the European Enlightenment").

09/7 - **Architecture in South Asia; Mughals; City planning after the Silk Road**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 605-615 (starting at "Introduction").

09/9 - **Historicism in the Industrial Age**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 573-584 (starting at "The Louvre and the Hotel").

Reading: Mallgrave, "Theories of the Picturesque and the Sublime," pages 221-239.

Optional Reading: Anthony Vidler, "The Idea of Type: The Transformation of the Academic Ideal, 1750– 1830." *Oppositions Reader* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998), 437–459.

09/14 - **Notions on Eclecticism; Rationalism; Empiricism, and Realism**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 632–657 (starting at "Colonial Calcutta: The Esplanade").

Optional Reading: Moffett, Fazio, and Wodehouse, Chapter 14, "Eclecticism."

09/16 - **The École des Beaux-Arts in France; The École des Beaux-Arts as a global system of education**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 675–680 (starting at "Paris and Haussmann").

Reading: Donald Drew Egbert, and David Van Zanten, *The Beaux-Arts Tradition in French Architecture: Illustrated by the Grands Prix de Rome*, "Programs," pages 139-162.

09/21 - **Architecture in South Asia c. 1800 CE**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 605–615 (starting at "Introduction").



09/23 - **Neoclassicism vs. Romanticism**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 616–632 (starting at "Neoclassicism vs. Romanticism").

Optional Reading: Moffett, Fazio, and Wodehouse, **Chapter 13**, "Neo-Classicism."

Optional Reading: Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale, *Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the USA* (New York; London : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976).

Paper 1: Submission

Length: minimum 1,500 words; maximum: 1,750 words

Images: 3-6 (in the subtitles, include name, place, architect, year, and source/credit)

Bibliography: 5-10 scholarly articles or books

Citation format: Chicago Manual of Style, Notes and Bibliography [\[link\]](#)

Deadline: [Submission on Blackboard until 9pm.](#)

09/28 - **Group Discussion 1: Principles of Architectural Composition**

Group 1 (4:30pm–4:50pm): **Reading:** Talbot Hamlin, *Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture*, “Unity,” pages 22-45.

Group 2 (5:00pm–5:20pm): **Reading:** Talbot Hamlin, *Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture*, “Balance,” pages 46–70.

Group 3 (5:30pm–5:50pm): **Reading:** Talbot Hamlin, *Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture*, “Proportion,” 71-99.

09/30 - **Group Discussion 2: Classicism and the Theory of Modern Design**

Group 4 (4:30pm–4:50pm): **Reading:** Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*, translated by Morris H. Morgan (New York: Dover, 1960), Books III and IV, 72-126.

Group 5 (5:00pm–5:20pm): **Reading:** Donald Drew Egbert, and David Van Zanten, *The Beaux-Arts Tradition in French Architecture: Illustrated by the Grands Prix de Rome*, “Theory of Design,” pages 99-120.

Group 6 (5:30pm–5:50pm): **Reading:** David van Zanten, “The Beaux-Arts System,” *Architectural Design* 48 (Nov./Dec. 1978), 66-79.

10/05 - **New expressions on public architecture**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 599–605; and pages 662-669.

Optional Reading: Bernard L. Herman, *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American city, 1780-1830* (Williamsburg, Virginia: The University of North Carolina Press, 2005), “Introduction.”

Optional Reading: Lois A. Craig and the Staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and National Design* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1984), pages 23-48.

10/07 - **Exam I**

*In-person - Harris Hall 101



10/12 - **Haciendas; Modernity in Central America** (Zoom meeting)

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 563–582

Optional Reading: Alfred C. Bossom, *Old Mexico: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, 2013), pages 5-10.

Optional Reading: José María Luis Mora, "On the Expulsion of the Native and Citizens of This Republic Born in Spain" (1827), in *Nineteenth-Century Nation Building and the Latin American Intellectual Tradition*, ed. Janet Burke and Ted Humphrey (Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co., 2010), pages 24-37.

10/14 - *Fall Break* (No classes)



10/19 - **The Crystal Palace (1851); The Global Arts and Crafts Movement; The Indo-Saracenic Style**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 669–672.

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 5, "Arts and crafts ideals in Britain and the U.S.A.," pages 87-97.

Optional Reading: Gottfried Semper, "Science, Industry and Art" (1852), in: Gottfried Semper, *The Four Elements of Architecture and Other Writings* (Cambridge, England; New York: Cambridge UP, 1989), pp. 130-167. See also: Frank Lloyd Wright, "The Art and Craft of the Machine," *Mallgrave*, 131-132.

Optional Reading: Nikolaus Pevsner, "Theories of Art from Morris to Gropius" and "From Eighteen Fifty-One to Morris and the Arts and Crafts." *In Pioneers of Modern Design* (London: Penguin Books, 1975), 19–39; 40–67.



10/21 - **Colonial Modernism; African Land Grab; Concrete and Culture**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 680–686; and pages 699–706.

Optional Reading: Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, 12-28. See also: Curtis, Chapter 4, "Rationalism, the engineering tradition and reinforced concrete," pages 73-85



10/26 - **American Colonial Architecture; Mayam Revival; to Usonia**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 634–640

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 7, "The architectural system of Frank Lloyd Wright," pages 113-129.

Optional Reading: Reyner Banham, *The Architecture of the Well-Tempered Environment* (London: Architectural Press, 1969), 45-121.



10/28 - **From Camillo Sitte to early Le Corbusier, 1889-1920**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 2, "Industrialization and the City: The Skyscraper as Type and Symbol," pages 33-51.

Optional Readings: Camillo Sitte, "City Building According to Artistic Principles," 141-197, in George R. and Christiane Craseman Collins, *Camillo Sitte: The birth of Modern City Planning* (New York: Rizzoli, 1986).

Francesco Passanti, "Architecture: Proportion, Classicism and Other Issues," in *Le Corbusier before Le Corbusier*, ed. Stanislaus von Moos and Arthur Ruegg (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002), 68-98.

Stanislaus von Moos and Arthur Ruegg, *Le Corbusier before Le Corbusier* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002), 23-43.

Recommended film: BBC 5-minute film of Le Corbusier in Paris: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP6HHS4abik>

11/2 - **German Expressionism, the Bauhaus; the American Bauhaus**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 11, "Walter Gropius, German expressionism and the Bauhaus," pages 183-199. Also, read: Chapter 22, "Modern architecture in the U.S.A.: immigration and consolidation" pages 395-415.

Current listing of Bauhaus centennial exhibitions:

<https://www.wallpaper.com/architecture/bauhaus-exhibitions-2019>

11/4 - **The global expansion of Modern Architecture after 1933**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 21, "International, national, regional: the diversity of a new tradition," pages 371-393

Optional Readings: CIAM, "La Sarraz Declaration," in Conrads, Ulrich, *Programmes and Manifestoes on Twentieth Century Architecture* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1970), 109-113.

Marcos Petrolli, "Modern Venetian and the case of J.S. Dorton Arena In Raleigh, NC (1949–52)," The 16th International Docomomo Conference Tokyo Japan 2020+1, *Inheritable Resilience: Sharing Values of Global Modernities*.

Recommended films:

Architects' Congress (Laszlo Moholy Nagy, made after CIAM 4, 1933)

"The City," a 30-min documentary film produced for the 1939 New York World's Fair as part of the "City of Tomorrow" exhibit (adapted by Lewis Mumford). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nuvcpnysjU>

11/9 - **Group Discussion 3: Metropolises and Social Change**

Group 1 (4:30pm–4:50pm): **Reading:** Hanna Arendt, *The Human Condition*, Chapters "Instrumentality and Animal Laborans," and "Instrumentality and *Homo Faber*," pages 139-152.

Group 2 (5:00pm–5:20pm): **Reading:** Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life," adapted by D. Weinstein from Kurt Wolff (Trans.), *The Sociology of Georg Simmel* (New York: Free Press, 1950), 409-424.

Group 3 (5:30pm–5:50pm): **Reading:** Eric Mumford, *Designing the Modern City: Urbanism since 1850*, Chapter 4, “The Emergence of Avant-Garde Urbanism in the 1920s and 1930s,” 297-337.

11/11 - **Group Discussion 4: Urban Progress, Fantasy, and Counterculture**

Group 4 (4:30pm–4:50pm): **Reading:** Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*, “The Double Life of Utopia: The Skyscraper,” pages 81-131.

Group 5 (5:00pm–5:20pm): **Reading:** Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, “Architecture II: Fantastic,” pages 93–142.

Group 6 (5:30pm–5:50pm): **Reading:** Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, “Part Two: The Conditions for City Diversity,” pages 250–345.



11/16 - **The New Monumentality and the postwar triumph of Modern Architecture: Le Corbusier, Chandigarh, and his postwar global influence**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 23, “Form and meaning in the late works of Le Corbusier,” pages 417-435

Optional Reading: Marcos Petrolli, “Un Pavillon – Un Monument: The Modern Palace and the Case of the U.S. Embassy in Karachi, Pakistan (1955–59),” *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology Journal*.

Recommended film: *Columbus* (about the modern architecture of Columbus, Indiana); *My Architect* (a film biography of Louis Kahn by his son); and *Form, Design and the City* (Ed Bacon, Pei, von Moltke, et al in Philadelphia 1961, without Kahn).



11/18 - **Architecture in Latin America from Brasilia to PREVI**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 27, “The process of absorption: Latin America, Australia, Japan,” pages 491-511.

Complementary Readings: Peter Land, *The Experimental Housing Project (PREVI), Lima - Design and Technology in a New Neighborhood* (Bogota, Colombia: Universidad de Los Andes, 2015), 19-21.

Luis E. Carranza and Fernando Luiz Lara, *Modern Architecture in Latin America* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014), 51-205.

Carlos Eduardo Comas, “The Poetics of Development: Notes on Two Brazilian Schools,” in *Latin America in Construction: Architecture 1955-1980*, ed. Berry Bergdoll et al., (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2015), 40-67.

Zeuler R.M. de A. Lima, *Lina Bo Bardi* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2013), 101-137.

Recommended film: “Brasilia: City of Hope,” an 11-min documentary film on the capital of Brazil, the modern city of Brasilia, AV Geeks Archive, c. 1960. [\[link\]](#)

Paper 2: Submission

Length: minimum 1,500 words; maximum: 1,750 words

Images: 3-6 (in the subtitles, include name, place, architect, year, and source/credit)

Bibliography: 5-10 scholarly articles or books

Citation format: Chicago Manual of Style, Notes and Bibliography [[link](#)]

Deadline: [Submission on Blackboard until 9pm.](#)

11/23 - **From Team 10 to Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown and postmodern historicism**

Reading: Curtis, Chapter 32, "Pluralism in the 1970s," pages 589-615.

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 780–785.

Optional Readings: Eric Mumford, *Designing the Modern City: Urbanism since 1850*, Chapter 5, 435-541. Also, see: Frampton, 262-313; and Colquhoun, 209-254.

11/25 - *Thanksgiving* (No classes)

11/30 - **Globalization; Architecture as medium and target; World Histories of Architecture**

Reading: Ching, Jarzombek, and Prakash, pages 599–605; and pages 787-799.

Optional Readings: Manfredo Tafuri, "Toward a Critique of Architectural Ideology." In Michael Hays, ed., *Architectural Theory Since 1968* (New York: Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1998), 6–35.

Lineu Castello, and Marcos Petrolí, "Environmental Nexus: And You'll Recognize Us by Our Places," *Challenging Issues on Environment and Earth Science*, Vol. 5 (June 19, 2021), Pages 111-122.

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (London: Vintage, 1997), 5–12.

Superstudio, "Twelve Cautionary Tales for Christmas." *Architectural Design* 42 (December 1971), 737-742.

Recommended film: *Koyaanisqatsi* (1983)

- General review of the course, Q&A, final comments

12/02 - **Exam II**

*In-person - Harris Hall 101

**Because of schedule conflicts with design studios' final reviews and/or preparation for final reviews, we normally hold the final exam on the last day of class rather than on the scheduled final exam day. This is subject to discussion with students to determine a solution that accommodates your class and studio schedules as best as possible.

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](#)" 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. <https://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. <http://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. <https://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: <http://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. <https://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. <https://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. <http://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. <https://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. <https://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, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime: <http://dps.usc.edu>