



USC University of Southern California

TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCH 404

Units: 3

Spring 2022—Tuesdays—1:00 -3:30 pm

Location: Watt 1

Instructor: Kenneth Breisch

Office Hours: Tuesdays—11:30-12:30 am. and by appointment

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

Class Assistant: Kathryn Ahmanson

Contact Info: ka51068@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 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

Please note that I am always open to questions during my lectures. I have also scheduled an office hour before each class period. It might be best to email me to make an appointment during this time, but if you cannot come by my office then, please email me to arrange another time that's convenient for both of us. You can also email me with questions at breisch@usc.edu. I will try to respond to emails 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 to access Blackboard, where I will post images from each lecture as well as class readings.

USC Technology Support Links

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

REQUIRED READING

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

An ebook is available on the Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/losangelesarchit0000banh>

There are also multiple new and used editions of this book available on the internet, including a Kindle edition. Any of these will be acceptable. **BLACK BOARD READING 1** contains Anthony Vidler's Introduction to the 2001 Edition. You should read this.

Other weekly reading assignments are listed in Class Schedule below. These 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.

Esther McCoy, *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

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 ONE unexcused absence. Your **final grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each absence beyond that.**

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.

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments in this class, will be essay format, including the midterm and final exam. You will be required to submit the essays through Turnitin by the listed due date. 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

UNDERGRADUATE SEMESTER PAPERS:

Undergraduate Assignment 1: Please write a short paper (4 pages/1100-1200 words) with appropriate citations where necessary, comparing the work of Irving Gill and Charles and Henry Greene. Make sure to consult the readings in the syllabus. This will be due FEBRUARY 22. (Late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue).
SUBMIT THIS THROUGH TURNITIN IN BLACKBOARD.

Undergraduate Assignment 2: Please write a short critical review (4 pages/1100-1200 words) on Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four*. Based on what has been covered in class to date, what do think are the strengths of the book? And what do you think Banham might be missing? This will be due APRIL 12. (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 22.

A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper with appropriate citations and an expanded bibliography is due APRIL 12. (Late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue).
SUBMIT THIS THROUGH TURNITIN IN BLACKBOARD.

CRITICAL DATES AND GRADING

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due Date
UG ESSAY ASSIGNMENT 1	15%	FEBRUARY 22
GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE		FEBRUARY 22
MIDTERM EXAM	30%	MARCH 8
UG ESSAY ASSIGNMENT 2	15%	APRIL 12
GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPER:	30%	APRIL 12
FINAL EXAM	40%	MAY 11 2 pm

SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS OUTSIDE OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any 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. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 JAN 11: Contested Space

TEXT: Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*. You can begin reading this as an overview of the class.

BLACKBOARD 1, Anthony Vidler's Introduction to the 2001 edition of Banham

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIZ0NbC-YDo>

Week 2 JAN 18: The Reinvention of Place

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

BLACKBOARD 2, 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 JAN 25: 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 1: 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 8: R. M. Schindler and Lloyd Wright in the 1920s

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

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

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

Week 6 FEB 15: 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) 478-48.

Week 7 FEB 22: Automobile City—UG ESSAYS 1 DUE

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

Week 8 MAR 1: Richard Neutra and Modernism in the 1930s—GRADUATE RESEARCH TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS DUE

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 8: MIDTERM: and Modernism in the 1930s , cont.

MAR 15: SPRING BREAK

Week 10 MAR 22: 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>

Week 11 MAR 29: Post War Housing

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

BLACKBOARD 15, Selected Case Study House Articles in *Arts and Architecture*

Week 12 APR 5: 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 16, Dana Cuff, "And 10,000 More: Remaking Chaves Ravine" *The Provisional City*, pp. 272-300

Week 13 APR 12: Southern California during the last Decades of the 20th Century—UG ESSAYS AND GRAD RESEARCH PAPERS 2 DUE

Frank Escher, Chemosphere <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/CA-01-037-0067>

BLACKBOARD 17, 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 18, 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>

Week 14 APR 19 Frank Gehry and the “LA School?”

BLACKBOARD 19, 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 20, 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 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>

Week 15 APR 26 Sampling Recent Work and Review

WEDNESDAY: FINAL EXAM, MAY 11: 2 PM-4 PM

BLACKBOARD ARTICLES

1. Anthony Vidler’s Introduction to the 2001 Edition of Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* .
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. FOLDER
- 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}
16. 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
17. Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, Selected Projects in *John Lautner, 1911-1994: Disappearing Space*, Cologne: Taschen, 1999
18. Thomas Hines, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 98-117
19. Reyner Banham, "'Building Inside Out," *A Critic Writes: Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c. 1996, pp. 265-269
20. 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.

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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