HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM:
ARCH 553: Fall 2010
Harris 101: Tuesdays 6:30-9:30
Ken Breisch: breisch@usc.edu
Office Hours: Watt 326, Tuesdays: 4-5; or to be arranged

Architecture 553 examines the impact of politics, culture and the environment on the evolution of American architectural and urban forms from prehistory to World War II. The class explores the interchange between European architectural theory and indigenous and vernacular influences as they came together to create new national and regional forms of building and urban design. While generally chronological in presentation, lectures also examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of form and meaning in the American landscape.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:


RECOMMENDED TEXT:


READING:

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.

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 October 26. A ten-page, double-spaced paper, with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography will be due on November 30.

GRADING:

Preliminary Paper Proposal and Bibliography 5%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Research Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 35%

ATTENDANCE:

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. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUG 24 INTRODUCTION: First Americans: Pre-Contact Traditions in the American Southwest


AUG 31 Indigenous Peoples in the American Southwest, cont.

SEP 7 Building in New Spain

Gelernter, pp. 35-50; and Marc Treib, “Church design and construction in Spanish New Mexico,” American Architectural History, pp. 51-72

SEP 14 Native American Architecture and the Persistence of Medieval European Building in Eastern North America

Upton, pp. 11-55; Gelernter, pp. 51-64
SEP 21  The Georgian Renaissance

Gelernter, pp. 64-106; and Dell Upton, “Space: parish churches, courthouses, and dwellings in colonial Virginia,” 73-91

SEP 28  Imagining the New Republic:


OCT 5  Inventing an Iconography of Expansion and Power

Upton, pp. 57-105; Gelernter, pp. 106-43; Mary N. Woods, “The first professional: Benjamin Henry Latrobe,” American Architectural History, pp. 112-31; and

OCT 12  MIDTERM EXAM

OCT 19  The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on the American Landscape/REVIEW


OCT 26  Parks, Suburbs and the Ideal of Nature

PRELIMINARY PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Upton, pp. 107-147; Gelernter, pp. 143-153; and Gwendolyn Wright, “Independence and the rural cottage,” American Architectural History, pp. 142-154

NOV 2  Inventing an “American” Architecture


NOV 9  Monuments to Commerce: Chicago and the Rise of the Tall Office Building


NOV 16  City Beautiful and the Conquest of the West


NOV 23  Frank Lloyd Wright and the Origins of an American Avant-Garde

NOV 30  Tradition and Innovation Between the Wars, REVIEW
        RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Upton, pp. 247-283; Gelernter, pp. 230-259; and Margaret Kentgens-Craig, “The search for modernity: America, the International Style and the Bauhaus,” American Architectural History, pp. 294-312

DEC 14  FINAL EXAM: 7-9 PM

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Fowler, Orson S. *The Octagon House: A Home for All*, 1853.


Sies, Mary Corbin, and Christopher Silver, eds. Planning the Twentieth-Century American City. Baltimore, 1996.
Street, George.  Brick & Marble Architecture of North Italy.  London, 1855