

ARCH 712-003: Topics in History and Theory  
ARTH 581-404: Topics in Modern Architecture

## **ARCHITECTS, HISTORIANS, AND THE INVENTION OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE**

Spring 2014 Tuesdays 3-6 PM  
Psychology Lab C41

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Henri Labrouste, medal of the  
Société Centrale des Architectes, 1847

This seminar will examine the creation of the literature of modern architecture, emphasizing the diversity of its authors and its location at the intersection of design practice and humanistic scholarship.

As texts, we have chosen a sampling of major writings dating from the nineteenth century until our own time. While the focus will be on the built environment, we shall strive to establish a broad context for our discussion in the history of ideas, and specifically the relationship between artistic theory and praxis in the era when specialization established the boundaries between the intellectual disciplines with which we are familiar today.

The seminar is designed to bring together graduate students from the School of Design and graduate students in the humanities programs of the School of Arts and Sciences. It is sponsored by the Humanities+Urbanism+Design project of the Schools of Design and Arts and Sciences, which is funded by the Mellon Foundation. That project is designed to foster cross-disciplinary discussions of this kind.

Students will have two major assignments. First, at each seminar meeting a student or pair of students will be responsible for presenting the material under discussion, preparing a dossier on the relevant authors, the focus of their work, and the context out of which the work developed. This dossier will entail a set of pre-distributed questions, a visual presentation, an outline of the presentation, and a bibliography. The second assignment is a short research paper (15 pages). Students will have the opportunity to explore their own research interests, including those in other artistic disciplines (such as literature, music, theater).

## Readings for weekly discussions

### 1. Jan 21

Reyner Banham. Theory and Design in the First Machine Age. London: Architectural Press, 1960. NA680 .B25 1960c pp 9-22, 98-137, 320-330.

Thomas Hughes. Networks of Power: Electrification in Western Society, 1880-1930. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1983. TK1005 .H83 1983 *Available as ACLS Humanities E-Book*. pp 1-78, 324-63, 461-66.

**Jan 25: Attend first panel (Friday morning) of *Energy Accounts* symposium. Speakers: Reinhold Martin, David Nye, Ursula Heise**

### 2. Jan 28

Le Corbusier. Towards a New Architecture. tr. Frederick Etchells. New York: Dover, 1986. [Vers une architecture, Paris 1923] NA 2520 .L3613 1986 *complete*

Sheldon Cheney. The New World Architecture. New York : Longmans, Green and Co., 1930. LIBRA 724.9 C429 pp 1-30, 73-118.

Sigfried. Giedion. Building in France, Building in Iron, Building in Ferroconcrete, Getty Research Institute, 1995, [originally published as Bauen in Frankreich, Bauen in Eisen, Bauen in Eisenbeton Leipzig: Klinkhardt & Biermann, 1928.] NA1048.5.F85 G5413 1995 *pp tbd*

### 3. Feb 4

Heinrich Hübsch, et al. In What Style Should We Build? The German Debate on Architectural Style. intr and tr. Wolfgang Herrmann. Santa Monica: Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, 1992. [Karlsruhe 1828] NA 2500 I5 1992 *pp. 63-112*

Karl Marx. Communist Manifesto. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1967. [first published in London in German in 1848] Van Pelt HX276 .M3 1967 *complete*

### 4. Feb 11

Adolf Loos. "Cultural Degeneracy" (1908) and "Architecture" (1910) in Tim and Charlotte Benton, eds. Architecture and Design, 1890-1939: An International Anthology of Original Articles. New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1975. NA680 B48 1975 pp 40-45.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Ornament and Crime" (1908) in Ulrich Conrads, ed. Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-century Architecture. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1975. NA680 C6213 1971 pp. 19-24

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Potemkin City" (1898) and "The Story of the Poor Little Rich Man" (1900) in Spoken into the Void, Collected Essays 1897-1900, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1982. NK775 .L6313 1982 pp. 95-97, 124-27.

Sigmund Freud. On Dreams. New York: W.W. Norton 1990. [Vienna 1901] Van Pelt Library. BF1078 .F773 complete

### 5. Feb 18

John Ruskin. The Stones of Venice. 3 vols. New York: Garland, 1979. [London 1851-1853] NA1121.V4 R7 1979 Vol. I (1. Quarry, 2. Virtues), Vol. II (6. Nature of Gothic)

Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc. Discourses on Architecture. 2 vols. tr. Edward Bucknall. New York: Grove, 1959. [Paris 1863-1872] NA 2520 V5613 1959 vol. 1: discourses 1-6

### 6. Feb 25

Emil Kaufmann. Three Revolutionary Architects Boullée, Ledoux and Lequeu. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1952; Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. n.s. v. 42 pt. 3. Fine Arts Library. Q11 .P6 n.s. v.42 pt.3 pp 474-537

Anthony Vidler. "The Theater of Industry: Claude-Nicholas Ledoux and the Factory-Village of Chauv," in The Writing of the Walls: Architectural Theory in the Late Enlightenment Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press, 1987 NA1046.5.N4 V53 1987 pp 35-49

Claude Nicholas Ledoux, L'Architecture Considérée sous le Rapport de L'art, des Moeurs, et de la Législation Paris, F. de Nobele, 1961 [1804]. Selections tbd [In French – read as possible] Folio 724.144 L496a

### 7. Mar 4

Manfredo Tafuri. "The Historical Project" in The Sphere and the Labyrinth: Avant-Gardes and Architecture from Piranesi to the 1970s. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1987. NA500 .T3313 1987 pp tbd

\_\_\_\_\_. Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development Cambridge, MA : MIT Press, 1976. NA2543.S6 T3313 pp tbd

Michael Baxandall. Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy: A Primer in the Social History of Pictorial Style, second edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press,

1988. ND615 .B32 1988 *pp 1-71, 94-108.*

T.J. Clark. "On the Social History of Art," in Image of the People; Gustave Courbet and the Second French Republic, 1848-1851 Greenwich, CT: New York Graphic Society, 1973 ND 553 C9 C55 1973 *pp 9-20*

### **8. Mar 18**

Peter Eisenman. "Cardboard Architecture: House I" and "Cardboard Architecture House II" in Arthur Drexler, ed., Five Architects: Eisenman, Graves, Gwathmey, Hejduk, Meier. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975 [first published, NY: Wittenborn 1972] NA7208 .F54 1975 *pp 15-37*

Noam Chomsky. Syntactic Structures. 's-Gravenhage: Mouton and Co., 1957 Van Pelt Library. P291 .C5 1957 *pp tbd*

Rosalind Krauss, "Death of a Hermeneutic Phantom: Materialization of the Sign in the Work of Peter Eisenman" in Peter Eisenman's Houses of Cards New York: Oxford University Press, 1987 [written in 1977] ISBN-13: 978-0195051308 0 Penn apparently lacks, pp 166-184

### **9. Mar 25**

Robert Venturi, et al. Learning from Las Vegas. Revised edition. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1977. [first edition 1972] NA735.L3 V4 1977 *pp xi-xvii, 1-19, 87-163*

Marshall McLuhan and Quentin Fiore. The Medium is the Massage. New York: Bantam Books, 1967. Van Pelt Library P90 .M258 1967a *complete*

### **10. Apr 1**

J.K. Watson, The New Asian City: Three Dimensional Fictions of Space and Urban Form, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2011. Van Pelt Library PL493 .W37 2011 *pp tbd*

Chuihua Judy Chung, Rem Koolhaas, Jeffrey Inaba, Sze Tsung Leong. The Great Leap Forward Harvard Project on the City Cologne: Taschen, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-3822860489 Penn apparently lacks *pp tbd*

Fredric Jameson, "Future City" in *New Left Review* vol. 21 (May, June 2003): 65-80

### **11. Apr 8**

David Joselit, After Art, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. N71 .J68 2013 *pp tbd*

Antoine Picon, Digital Culture in Architecture Basel: Birkhauser, 2010. NA2750 .P45 2010 *pp tbd*

Mary Lou Lobsinger, "Cybernetic Theory and the Architecture of Performance: Cedric Price's Fun Palace," in Sarah Goldhagen and Rejhean Legault, eds., Anxious Modernisms: Experimentation in Postwar Architectural Culture Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000 ISBN-13: 978-0262072083 Penn lacks pp 119-140.

**Student Presentations**

**12. Apr 15**

**13. Apr 22**

**14. Apr 29**