

ART 288 Modern Architecture
10:00-10:50 MWF SFAC 9
Fall 2003

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Textbooks:

Dennis P. Doordan. *Twentieth-Century Architecture*. Prentice-Hall & Abrams, 2002.
Le Corbusier. *Towards a New Architecture*. 1927.
Robert Venturi. *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*.. 1966.
Tom Wolfe. *From Bauhaus to Our House*, 1981.

Course Description:

Every historical period thinks of itself as modern, but in the 20th century "modern" architecture refers to a specific set of forms and values that have held sway from the early 1900s. Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, and Mies van der Rohe are acknowledged modern masters who established modernism's principles and prototypes. Robert Venturi, Richard Meier, and Frank Gehry and other post modern architects challenged modernism's hegemony. Other, less known, architects created significant buildings in an historic and stylistic context.

Whether we "like" modern architecture or not, we live in a constructed world created by modern architects. By the end of this course you should be able to define "modernism" and "postmodernism" in architecture and better understand the buildings that shape your environment.

Course Requirements:

1. As the class is organized around discussion, class attendance is mandatory. To see slides, hear lectures, and participate in discussions, you must attend class. More than 3 absences will result in a lowered grade.
2. Site visits to 20th Winston-Salem buildings. At least 5 should be analysed in your journals.
3. On line journal to be written in at least once weekly--critiques of readings, videos, buildings, discussions. To be submitted by Oct 10/Dec 5
4. Role playing! For discussion of Tom Wolfe's *From Our House to Bauhaus*
5. Three exams: 2 mid-terms (Sept 29/ Oct 31) final (Dec 13, at 2 PM, plus additional date to be decided)
6. One research project to be presented in class and as a final paper

Videos on reserve

Gaudi
Barcelona Pavilion (Mies van der Rohe)
House on Waterfall (FLW)
Schindler's Lovell House
Alvar Aalto
Beyond Utopia
Richard Meier
The River (TVA)
Hollywood film w/ architecture (i.e Breakfast at Tiffany's)

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Describing and analyzing architecture

Architecture is the most complex of the arts. It takes careful analyses to understand just how a building, a townscape, a total built environment or constructed landscape works. Architectural imagery consists of a combination of structure, design, materials, meaning, and use. Here are some guidelines to writing and thinking about architecture.

Exterior

- Approach (arbitrary or contrived, obscure or open, monumental or informal)
- Contrast or relationship to surrounding area in terms of scale, design, style
- Non-physical elements that affect one's perceptions of the architecture: familiarity, power, ceremonial use, social or historical role
- Symmetrical or asymmetrical, horizontal or vertical
- Scale and proportion (relative to humans, is it monumental or intimate, compatible or harmonious)
- Texture and materials (durable like stone, ephemeral like canvas; slick like titanium, rough like granite)
- Pattern and rhythm (how does the placement of doors, windows, balconies, etc. work in terms of repetitive forms?)
- Color (monochrome, polychrome)
- Details/Function
- Evidence of alteration, denaturation, additions, modifications

Interior

- If you can get inside, consider space, smell, sound

20th Century Winston-Salem Architecture

Visit and analyse at least 5 of these buildings and include in your journals

Reynolda House, Reynolda Road, 1917

Stevens Center, former Carolina Theatre, West Fourth Street, 1920s/1985 renovation

RJR Headquarters, N. Main Street, 1928

Shell Auto Service Station (headquarters, NC Preservation), Sprague & Peachtree Streets, 1930

Graylyn, Reynolda Road, 1932

Reynolda Hall, WFU, 1950-56

Thruway Shopping Center, Stratford Road, 1950s, 1990s renovation

WSJS, 875 West Fifth Street, 1961

Wachovia Building, 301 N. Main Street, 1966

M.C. Benton Convention and Civic Center, 301 West Fifth Street, 1968

Crystal Towers, 625 West Sixth Street, 1972

Hall of Justice Building of Forsyth County, 200 Main Street, 1975

SECCA (James Hanes House and modern gallery + addition, 1932, 1976, 1984)

RJR World Headquarters (now WFU), Reynolda Blvd. 1977

Scales Fine Arts Center, WFU, 1975, 1983

One Triad Park, West 2nd Street, 1984

New Wachovia Building, West 2nd Street, 1996 (try to get inside!)

Hanes Mall, Stratford Road, 1978

Worrell Professional Building, WFU, 1991

Fast Food Restaurant (Burger King & McDonalds)

Building from your home town or someplace you visited this fall

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Nov 12 Read From Bauhaus to Our House and be prepared to discuss the following questions. I expect you to discuss the ideas of the book among yourselves, not to make a statement and look to me for approval.

Architecture in modern life arouses passion and demands conviction! Cast aside your WFU student persona, and for a 50-minute hour, be a specific person from one camp. Try to imagine his/her reaction to Tom Wolfe's book and argue your points and raise your questions from that position.

Take the time to check out the Avery Index to Architecture for your person. Tabulate how many entries he or she has and read several articles to give you a good sense of what that architect is about. You might dress or wear a symbolic reference to him or her.

Modernists

Walter Gropius
Marcel Breuer
Le Corbusier
Mies van der Rohe
Gordon Bunshaft
Frank Lloyd Wright
Louis Kahn

Apostates

Edward Durrell Stone
Eero Saarinen
Morris Lapidus

Scholastics

Robert Venturi
Vincent Scully
Phillip Johnson (he could go anywhere!)
Peter Eisenman
Michael Graves
Richard Meier
Denise Scott Brown

1. What is the theme of Wolfe's book?
2. How does he develop his argument? What rhetorical devices?
3. How does this alter your view of the issue of modernism?
4. What new or other bits of material become relevant?
5. What is your reaction to this text?

The following books are for your information. Some are classics, others are revisions. They have NOT been placed on reserve so you will have to look through the stacks to find them. Look over the list carefully because some books may pertain to your interests. These books are fun to browse through.

- Agrest, Diana et al, eds. *The Sex of Architecture*. New York: Abrams, 1996. NA2543 W65 S48 1996
- Banham, Reyner. *Theory and Design in the First Machine Age*. London: Architectural Press, 1960. NA680 B25
1967
- Berkeley, Ellen Perry, and Matilda McQuaid, eds. *Architecture: A Place for Women*. Washington D. C. : Smithsonian Press, 1989. NA1997 A74 1989
- Billington, David P. *The Tower and the Bridge: The New Art of Structural Engineering*. Princeton:1985
TA636 B54 1985
- Cole, Doris. *From Tipi to Skyscraper. A History of Women in Architecture*. Boston: i press, 1973. NA1997 C57
1973
- Conrads, Ulrich. *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th Century Architecture*. 1970/1990 NA680 C6213 1970b
- Hayden, Delores. *Resdesigning the American Dream: the Future of Housing, Work, and Family Life*. New York: Norton, 1984. HD7293 H39 1984
- Hayden, Delores. *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History*. Cambridge: MIT, 1995, F869 L857 1995
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: Norton, 1932/1966. NA680 H5 1966
- Huxtable, Ada Louise. *The Tall Building Artistically Considered: The Search for a Skyscraper Style*. New York: Pantheon, 1982. NA6230 H89 1984
- Katz, Peter. *Towards an Architecture of Community*.
- Jencks, Charles. *What is Post Modernism?* New York: St. Martins, 1989. NA682 P67 J46 1989
- Le Corbusier. *Towards a New Architecture*. 1927. New York:Dover, 1972. NA2520 J4 1972
- Lorenz, Clare. *Women in Architecture*. New York: Rizzoli, 1990. NA1997 L67 1990
- Marder, Tod A. ed. *The Critical Edge: Controversy in Recent American Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT, 1985 . NA712.5 P67 C74 1985
- Pevsner, Nikolas. *Pioneers of Modern Design*. Hammondsworth, 1975. N6450 P4 1975
- Riley, Terence. *The International Style, Exhibition 15, and the Museum of Modern Art*. New York: Rizzoli, 1992. NA682 I58 R54 1992
- Salvadori, Mario. *Why Buildings Stand Up: The Strength of Architecture*. New York: Norton, 1980. TH845 S33 1990
- Venturi, Robert, Denise Scott Brown, Steven Izenour. *Learning from Las Vegas*. 1977.
- Weisman, Leslie. *Discrimination by Design: A Feminist Critique of a Man Made Environment*. Urbana: U-Illinois Press, 1992.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Natural House*. 1954. NA7208 W68
- Wright, F.L. *FLW Collected Writings*. Vol. 1949-59. Edited by Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer. New York: Rizzoli, 1995 NA737 W7 1992 v. 5--This has Natural House in it.
- Wolfe, Tom Wolfe. *From Bauhaus to Our House*. New York:1981

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Final Project: Presentation and Paper

You are to select four buildings, the first from the year of a grandparent's birth (4 choices there), the second from the year of a parent's birth (2 choices there), the third from the year you were born (only one year here), and the fourth from anytime in your lifetime. The idea is to trace architectural development through the past three generations. You might select an architect you really like. So you could check to see if he or she designed a building in these years (Architects live and work long so this is not an impossibility). Or you could take a particular type of building—such as theatres, houses, museums, public housing, resorts--and see how it changed through these years. Or you could take your hometown or city and trace how its architecture has changed in the past 60 or so years.

Your text has a timeline of buildings and events so you should check there first

Time magazine has “best” of the year, so when you decide on your years, you can check there for outstanding architecture.. You should also be aware when reading your text what years the buildings you like were designed—and keep a working list until you decide on your final four.

Then, with buildings and architects in hand, go to the Avery Index from the architectural library at Columbia University (on line for Wake students) and see what you can find out about your architect's practice. Print out the entire entries for each.

When you have your four buildings/architects and documentary research, consider what changes have occurred and develop your thesis. This is the crux of your paper.

You probably can download images or, with adequate time, we can make slides from books in the visual resource library for your presentation.

Everyone should meet with me to discuss their project. I'll schedule times.

The presentations should be no more than 10 minutes, the papers, 10 pages double spaced, with bibliographies.

Class Schedule

August

- W 27 Introduction
F 29 Read:Introduction, pp.ix-xvi, Present favorite modern building

Part 1 Confronting Modernity 1900-1940

September

Chapter 1 The Modern City

- M 1 Responses/Emergence-pp.3-14
W 3 Housing/Europe/US/Pieces/Skyscrapers/Dept Stores/Apts-pp.14-32
F 5 Women/Cultural Inst/Int'l Style/Cinema/RC&GE-pp.32-43

Chapter 2 The House, p. 45

- M 8 Arts and Crafts to Prairie Style- pp. 46-53
W 10 European Development-pp.53-66
F 12 Read *Towards a New Architecture* by Le Corbusier
M 15 American Developments/Industrialization-pp.67-75
SECCA Talk: Michael Green of Kohn Pederson Fox

Chapter 3 Architecture of Transportation and Industry

- W 17 Transportation-pp.77-88
F 19 Factory architecture/Bridges-pp.88-101

Chapter 4 Architecture and Politics.

- M 22 Scandanavia, Empire, Soviet-pp.103-115
W 24 Facist Italy, Third Reich—pp. 115-121
F 26 United States-pp. 121-128
M 29 **Mid Term Examination**

Part 2 Modernist Hegemony 1940-1965

October

Chapter 5 The Triumph of Modernism

- W 1 Industrialization/New Directions—pp.131-140
F 3 Rebuilding/Reconfiguring capitals-pp. 141-155
M 6 Reconfiguring continued
W 8 Housing-pp.155-160
F 10 Skyscrapers/Strategy of Display-pp.160-165

M 13 Research for “Bauhaus” architect
W 15 Research for Generational project
F 17 **Fall Break**

Chapter 6 Trends in Postwar Architecture

- M 20 Domestic Architecture—pp. 169-181
W 22 Domestic Architecture continued
F 24 Campus Architecture-pp.181-186
M 27 Museums/Religious-pp. 186-195

W 29 Style for the Job-pp.195-198
F 31 **Mid-term examination**

Part 3 An Era of Pluralism 1965-2000

November **Chapter 7 Postmodernism, Deconstructivism, and Tradition, pp. 201-02**

M 3 Renewing Modernism from Within/Silence & Louis Kahn--pp. 202-206
W 5 Postmodernism-pp.207-212
F 7 Deconstructivism-pp.212-217
M 10 Return of Classicism/Adaptation/Organic form-pp.218-227
W 12 *From Bauhaus to Our House* be prepared to role-play
F 14 Be prepared to discuss *Complexity and Contradiction* by Robert Venturi and video on reserve:
Beyond Utopia

Chapter 8 Reconfiguring the City, p. 229

M 17 London, Paris, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Barcelona-pp. 230-246
W 19 Traditional Architecture & New Urbanism-pp. 246-251

Chapter 9 The Present as History

F 21 Technology, Domestic, Office, Skyscrapers-pp. 255-272
M 24 Government, Railroad, Culture, Momory-pp.273-289
26-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

M 1 Student Presentations
W 3 Student Presentations
F 5 Student Presentations

S 13 Final Examination—2 PM (an additional date will be offered)