

**Art 233 American Architecture**  
**Fall 2004**  
**TTh 12 noon SFAC 9**

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In this course we will approach the study of American architecture in two ways: first as a historical and chronological survey of buildings, architects, and land use planning, taught mostly in a lecture format; second as a discussion-based and more issue oriented class. The goal of the course is for you to have a specific body of knowledge where you can identify and categorize buildings and architectural components, and, at the same time, develop a critical awareness of the complexity of the built environment.

Your authors approach the topic of American Architecture in diametrically opposed ways (Just THINK about their titles). Roth sees American building as a compromise between pragmatism and idealism and grounds his survey in historical context. Upton's work is ahistorical, organized around the topics of home, community, nature, technology, money, and art. He explores the question: Why do we prefer to think of architecture primarily as an art, rather than as technology, a social act, a work of the intellect, or a commodity? We will examine that question, and others raised in your texts, throughout the semester.

The purpose of the course is to develop the ability to think critically about architecture and the built environment. As such, you will be expected to read carefully and actively question the assigned readings.. Come to class with what you think are the most significant points raised in each reading and your own critical reaction to the reading. Also, what questions are you left with and what do you want clarified.

The writing assignments and project are designed to give you enough skills and understanding so that you could get a job in historic preservation and to guarantee that you have fun doing the work.

***Texts:***

Leland Roth. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. Harper, 1979.  
Dell Upton. *Architecture in the United States*. Oxford, 1998.

***Tests:***

2 Midterm exams on **T September 14** and **Th October 7**

***Writing assignments:***

1. Using your list of Winston-Salem buildings, select 5 examples and compile a "concise" history in 2-3 typed pages. **Due T October 19.**

**Select 2 of the following 3 writing assignments:**

2. Analyze WFU in terms of the message its architecture and landscaping convey about the notion of community. **Due T November 2**

3. Interview 3 people who remember what it was like before air conditioning; where they first encountered air conditioning; and how they think it affected their lives. Draw conclusions. **Due T November 16**

4. Select one architect and evaluate his or her career in terms of what you have learned from the chapter on Art. **Due Th December 2**

***Project:***

1. Group Proposal. Recommendation for Winston-Salem architectural monument or gateway utilizing “visual bricolage.” To be presented at the Final Exam on Tuesday **December 8 at 2 PM.**

***Attendance:***

I look forward to seeing you at each class. More than 2 unexcused absences will affect your grade adversely.

***Grades:***

- 2 mid terms tests 40%
- 3 written assignments 40%
- Class participation 10%
- Final project 10%

***Class Schedule and readings assignment:***

Th 8/26	<b>Introduction</b> Read Roth Preface and Upton Introduction, 11-14 <b>Your Hometown Architecture</b> Come prepared to describe the best and the worst of your town’s architecture
T 8/31	<b>Land and the First Homes</b> R, Ch. 1, 1-27
Th 9/2	<b>Transplantations in the New World, 1600-1785</b> R, Ch. 2, 28-52
T 9/7	<b>Building A New Nation, 1785-1820</b> R, Ch. 3, 53-84
Th 9/9	<b>Lure of the Past, Promise of the Future 1820-1865</b> R, Ch. 4, 85-125
T 9/14	<b>Midterm test</b>
Th 9/16	<b>Age of Enterprise, 1865-1885</b> R. Ch. 5, 126-171
T 9/21	<b>Urbanism and the Search for Order, 1885-1915</b> R, Ch. 6, 172-227

Th 9/23      **Dichotomy: Tradition and Avant-Garde, 1915-1940**  
R, Ch. 7, 228-273

T 9/28      **Pure Function, Pure Form, 1940-1970**  
R, Ch. 8, 274-332

Th 9/30      **Post Modernism, Late Modernism 1970-2000**  
R, Epilogue

T 10/5      **Review and Discussion**

Th 10/7      **Midterm test**

**T/Th 10/12/14 Fall Break Use this time to compile your “concise” architectural history of Winston-Salem. Due T October 19**

**All readings are from Upton  
HOME, 17-55**  
T 10/19      Monticello  
Ordinariness of Architecture  
Domestic Community  
Host and Hermit

Th 10/21      Design  
Consumption  
Rethinking the Landscape  
Republican House

T 10/26      New American House  
Heirs of Monticello

**COMMUNITY, 57-105**  
Th 10/28      Authority  
Metaphors  
Citizenship  
Ancestral Homelands

T 11/2      Cultural Authority  
Community  
Communities

\*Analyse WFU in terms of the message its architecture and landscaping convey about its notion of community. **Due November 2.**

**NATURE, 107-47**  
Th 11/4      Neoclassicism and Romanticism

Country Life  
Primitive

T 11/9 The Simple Life  
Act Naturally

Th 11/11 **TECHNOLOGY, 149-185**  
Work  
Ventilation  
Gender, Filth, and Sex

T 11/16 Technological Sublime  
Producers and Consumers  
Consuming Architecture

\*Interview 3 people who remember what it was like before air conditioning; where they first encountered air conditioning, and how they think it affected their lives. Draw conclusions. **Due November 16.**

Th 11/18 **MONEY, 187-245**  
Political Economy of Architecture  
Proximity  
System and Flow  
Social Life of Work

T 11/23 Public Life of Business  
Moral Authority of Capitalisms  
Spatial Economy of Consumption  
Consuming Architecture  
Housing Non-consumers

Th 11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

T 11/30 **ART, 248-284**  
Architects and Builders  
Why Architects?  
Architecture as a Business  
Architecture & Social Class

Th 12/2 Style  
Architect as Artist  
Styles of Self  
Who is an architect?  
Beyond art

\*Select one architect and evaluate his or her career in terms of what you have learned from this chapter. **Due December 2.**

**T 12/8**

**Final Exam Meeting at 2 PM**

Group Projects: Recommendation for Winston-Salem architectural monument or gateway utilizing “visual bricolage”

## **Art 233 BUILDINGS IN WINSTON-SALEM AREA**

### **18<sup>th</sup> Century**

Single Brothers' House, Old Salem 1769 with 1786 addition  
First House, Old Salem, 1766 (reconstruction)  
Christoph Vogler House, Main Street, Old Salem, 1797

### **Federal**

Dr. Samuel Benjamin Vierling House, Old Salem, 1802  
Home Moravian Church, Church Street, Old Salem, 1800

### **Greek Revival**

Edward Belo House, Main & Bank Streets, **Old Salem, 1849-60**

### **Second Empire**

Dr. J. F. Shaffner, Main Street, Salem, 1873

### **Queen Anne/Stick/Shingle**

Hylehurst, 224 South Cherry St., Salem, 1884  
J. L. Ludlow House, 434 Summit Street, 1890  
Edgar Vaughn House, 1129 W. Fourth St., 1892

### **“Country” and Suburban Great Houses**

Reynolda, 1912-1917  
B. S. Womble House, 200 N. Stratford Rd., 1927  
Kent Residence, 1923 (just look around Reynolda Park)  
SECCA (formerly James G. Hanes) 1932-1976  
Graylyn, Reynolda Road, 1932

### **Classic Revival\_– 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

R. J. Reynolds Auditorium, N. Hawthorne Rd., 1924  
First Baptist Church, 501 W. Fifth St., 1925  
Wake Forest University, 1950-56

### **Gothic Revival – 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

St. Paul's Eposcopal Church, 520 Summit Street, 1928

### **Art Deco**

R. J. Reynolds Office Building, 401 N. Main St., 1927 (go inside if you can)

### **Modern and Contemporary**

**Wachovia Building, 301 N. Main St., 1966**  
First Center Building, 2000 W. First St., 1970  
Winston-Salem Hyatt House, 300 W. Fifth St., 1974  
R. J. Reynolds World Headquarters, Reynolds Blvd., 1977  
One Triad Park, 1985  
New Wachovia Building, 1993 (C. Pelli)