ARCHITECT AND HISTORY

Human experience is shaped by the built environment. This course introduces students to the interrelated fields of architecture, art history, and engineering and explores great architectural monuments from the ancient to the modern period, from India across the Mediterranean and Europe to the US. The focus will be on understanding these works in their structure and function, both as products of individual ingenuity and reflections of Zeitgeist. Questioning these monuments from a present-day perspective across the cultures will be an important ingredient, as will be podium discussions, guest lectures, excursions, and all kinds of visualizations, from digital walk-throughs to practical design exercises. No prerequisites.

Regularly taught in fall term, this course fulfills the Arts&Letters general requirement and is approved as a pilot course. It satisfies History of Art 100-level course requirements. NB: There is only ONE recitation in this course, attached directly to Friday's class (2-3), in order to provide sufficient time for practica and fields trips.

COURSE STRUCTURE

week 1

Sep. 5, 7: 'Ancient vs. Modern' – structural elements and principles; comparing and contrasting (key approach); the 'right angle' to look at architecture

• PARTHENON, Athens (Iktinos, 440s BC); cf. NASHVILLE PARTHENON (1920s)
• VILLA SAVOYE, near Paris (Le Corbusier, ca.1930); cf. FARNSWORTH HOUSE, near Chicago (Mies v.d.Rohe, ca.1950)

* reading: Stuart and Revett, Antiquities of Athens (1762 ff.), esp. intro to vol.1
* basic reading throughout entire class: The Annotated Arch!

NB! no recitation this Friday; class ends at 2 pm.

week 2

Sep. 10, 12, 14: 'Post and Lintel, Arch and Dome' – tectonic and dynamic systems, visible and 'hidden' forces; our analytical tools: observing, sketching, verbalizing

• PANTHEON, Rome (ca.120 AD) vs. PARTHENON

* reading: Vitruvius, De architectura (ca. 25 BC), esp. book 1,1-3, books 3 & 4
* reading: Le Corbusier, Vers une architecture (1922)

Friday Special (9/14): excursion to SECOND BANK Building (Strickland, ca.1820), Philadelphia
week 3-Sep. 17, 19, 21: 'Structure vs. Surface' – body building vs. metaphysical architecture; perceptions of buildings; stereometry, stereotomy
• PANTHEON vs. HAGIA SOPHIA, Constantinople (Anthemios, Isidoros, 530s/50s AD)
* reading: Procopius, De aedificiis (6th c.AD) – handout
O’Gorman, ABC of Architecture: 'firmitas'
Friday Special (9/21): discussion of De architectura vs. Vers une architecture
announcing: 1-page assignment

week 4-Sep. 24, 26, 28: 'Language' of Architecture' – trabeated vs. arcuated; playing with the orders; paradigm and revival
• ATTALOS STOA, Athens (ca.150 BC)
• COLOSSEUM, Rome (70s AD)
• CANCELLERIA, Rome (1480s-90s); Pal. RUCELLAI, Florence (Alberti, 1440s-50s)
• St. PETER's, Rome (cupola: Michelangelo, 1540-60s)
* reading: Summerson, Classical Language
Friday Special (9/28): excursion to GIRARD TRUST Building (McKim etc, 1900s) and FINE ARTS ACADEMY (Furness, 1870s), Philadelphia, with questionnaire "Experiencing Space"

week 5-Oct. 1, 3, 5: 'Classic vs. Gothic' – a counter-classic system, immaterialising matter (cf. Hag. Sophia); 'flying' buttresses
• NOTRE DAME, Paris (1160s-1240s)
• REIMS cathedral, near Paris (1210 ff.)
• BEAUVAIS cathedral, near Paris (1220s ff.–1600s)
* reading: Villard d'Honnecourt, Carnet (1220s/30s)
O’Gorman, ABC of Architecture
Friday Special (10/5): film on AMIENS cathedral, near Paris (1220s-80s)
announcing: architectural sketch (2 pg.)

week 6-Oct. 8, 10: 'Periods, and -isms' – taste, style, epoch; continuity, discontinuity, and revival; the 'primitive hut'
• LORSCH, gate hall, Germany (770s); PALATINE CHAPEL, Aachen (ca.800)
  Carolingian – re-connecting with Roman Antiquity
cf. CAIROUAN, GREAT MOSQUE, Tunesia (770s- 830s)
• ST. MICHAEL, Hildesheim (1000-30s)
  Romanesque – the 'Roman' style
• S. GIORGIO MAGGIORE, Venice (Palladio, 1560s ff.)
  Renaissance – Antiquity reborn
• S. CARLO (4 Fount.), Rome (Borromini, 1630s-60s)
  Baroque – Antiquity twisted
• S. SULPICE (façade), Paris (Servandoni, 1730s-50s)
  Neo-Classicism – Antiquity 'truly' revived: back to basics!
* reading: Laugier, Essay sur l'architecture (1753) – handout
Wednesday (10/10): announcing 4-page paper ('First Paper')
no Friday class (10/12): to be made up on 11/30!
week 7
Oct. 17, 19: 'Periods and -isms' – continued; the 'leading task' of building

- PIAZZA d'ITALIA, New Orleans (Moore, 1970s)
  Post-Modernism – 'forbidden' plays (with Antiquity)
- 'PLAIN HOUSING', Amsterdam (Koolhaas, ca.1990)
  Deconstructivism – 'chaotic' plays: back to basics!
- BILBAO Museum, Spain (Gehry, 1990s)

hmm, where are we at this point?

* reading: NewsWeek article on Koolhaas – handout

Friday (10/19): MIDTERM ARTICLE EXAM (1-3 pm!)

week 8
Oct. 22, 24, 26: 'How To ...' – plans and planning of buildings

- DIDYMA, Temple of Apollo, Turkey (3rd c.BC)
- PANTHEON (2nd c. AD)
- COLOGNE CATHEDRAL (1250s ff.–19th c.)

* reading: Sc. American article on Pantheon – handout

Friday Specials (10/26): rope-laying "shaping a square" (Practicum I);
  film on BILBAO Museum

week 9
Oct. 29, 31, Nov. 2: Statics vs. Aesthetics – building from scratch; proportion
  and module; transmission of design; role of treatises

- The 'Primitive Hut'
- Polykleitos' Canon (5th c.BC)
- Le Corbusier's Modulor (1950s)
- Palladio, Quattro libri dell'architettura (1570);
  cf. Alberti (1485), Serlio (1537 ff.), Vignola (1562)

* reading: Pollitt's article on Polykleitos – handout
  Palladio, Quattro libri

Friday Special (11/2): excursion to PMA, Philadelphia (Borie, Trumbauer,
  and Zantzinger, 1910s-20s)

week 10
Nov. 5, 7, 9: 'Constructing Curves and Cupolas' – intended 'deviations' and
  refinements; catenary and structural engineering; constructing domes and
  rescuing them

- DIDYMA (entasis curve, 3rd c. BC)
- ST. PETER'S (rescue operations: Poleni, Memorie istoriche della gran cupola
del tempio Vaticano, 1748)
- ST. PAUL'S, London (Wren, 1670s-1700s)
- SAGRAMDA FAMILY, Barcelona (Gaudi, 1880s–pres.)
- PALAZZETTO / PALAZZO DELLO SPORT, Rome (Nervi, 1950s/ ca.1960)

* reading: Sc.American article on Didyma – handout
  Poleni, Memorie

Friday Special (11/9): constructing a curve (Practicum II)
  announcing: 5-page paper ('Second Paper')
week 11  Nov. 12, 14, 16: *Naissance of Renaissance* – emergence and evolution of a period.

"Structure and emulation, not style → Renaissance"

- VITRUVIUS' rediscovery (ca.1420, St.Gall); Vitruvian Man (DaVinci, 1480s)
- FOUNDLING HOSPITAL, Florence (Brunelleschi, ca.1420)
- S. MARIA DEL FIORE, Florence: cupola (ca.1420 started, Brunelleschi); cf. MILAN cathedral (1380s-1480s, with Cesariano)
- S. PIETRO IN MONTORIO, Rome (Bramante, ca.1500)
- ST. PETER'S, Rome (Bramante, Michelangelo, and Della Porta, 16th c.)
- VILLA ROTOnda, Vicenza (Palladio, 1550s-90s)

"Baroque – twisted Renaissance"

- BALDACHINO, St.Peter's (Bernini, 1620-30s)
- ST. PETER'S PIAZZA, Rome (Bernini, 1650s-60s)
- S.AGNESE (Borromini, 1650s, completing Rainaldi); S. CARLO (4 Fount.)

* reading: King, *Brunelleschi's Dome*

Friday Special (11/16): Rare Book Exploration: Van Pelt, Fisher Fine Arts, Architectural Archives (Vitruvius, Desgodetz, Borromini, Haviland, et al.)

week 12  Nov. 19, 21: *East of West* – Ottoman and Indian Classics

*Early and Classical Ottoman Turkey*
- GREEN MOSQUE, Isnik (1370s-90s)
- HAGIA SOPHIA
- SEHZADE MOSQUE, Istanbul (Sinan, 1540s)
- SÜLEYMANIYE, Istanbul (Sinan, 1550s)
- SELIMIYE, Edirne (Sinan, 1560s-70s)

*Islamicate architecture in India*
- TAJ MAHAL, Agra (1630s-40s)
- GOL GUMBAD, Bijapur (ca.1660s)

* reading: Rybczynski, *Look of Architecture*

week 13  Nov. 26, 28, 30: *19/20th c. Ambivalences* – continuations, 'affinities', and revolutions; Modern vs. Classic, or 'Modern Classic'?

- ALTES MUSEUM, Berlin (Schinkel, 1820s)
- WERDER CHURCH, Berlin (Schinkel, 1820s)
- BAUAKADEMIE, Berlin (Schinkel, 1830s)
- BRITISH MUSEUM, London (Smirke, 1820s ff., facade 1840s, Rdg. Rm.1850s/60s +1990s by Foster)
- CRYSTAL PALACE(s), London and Sydenham (Paxton, 1850s)
- AEG TURBINE FACTORY, Berlin (Behrens, 1900s)
- GERMAN EMBASSY, St.Petersburg (Behrens, 1910s)
- WEISSENHOF house, Stuttgart (Behrens, 1920s)
- PARK GUELL, Barcelona (Gaudi, 1900s-10s)
- SAGRADA FAMILIA
- CASA MILA (La Pedrera), Barcelona (Gaudi, 1900s)
- GERMAN PAVILLION, Barcelona (Mies v.d.Rohe, 1920s)
- FARNSWORTH Hs.
• NATIONAL GALLERY, Berlin (Mies, 1960s)
• AT&T Building, N.Y. (Johnson, 1970-80s)

Friday Special (11/30): excursion to PSFS BUILDING, Philadelphia (Howe and Lescaze, 1930s) – NB: extended until 4 pm!

week 14 Dec. 3, 5, 7: 'Urban Context' – city planning in old and new worlds
• PHILADELPHIA (orig. plan: Penn, 1680s; B.FRANKLIN PARKWAY 1900s-20s, final design: Gréber, 1910s)
• NEUF-BRISACH, Alsace (Vauban, ca.1700)
• PALMANOVA, Italy (Scamozzi, ca.1600)
• NEW HAVEN (nine-square, 1630s)
• BOSTON (18th c., 'grown city)
• NEW YORK (18th/19th c. ('grown' and 'gridded' city, esp. Commissioner's Plan, 1811)
• WASHINGTON, D.C. (L'Enfant, 1790s, cf. VERSAILLES: LeNotre, 1660s-80s)
• CHANDIGARH, India (LeCorbusier, 1950s)
• BRASILIA, Brasil (Costa and Niemeyer, 1950s ff.)
• ATLANTIS-project (Krier, 1980s ff.)

Friday Special (12/7): Grand review (1-2 pm)

final exam scheduled by the registrar, 12/12–19.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITS
• regular attendance, incl. all excursions and practica
• homework readings, sketchings, and (short) writings
• keeping notebook (ungraded, checked upon presentation)
• intensive image study (web-site)

PAPERS
• 1-page paper ungraded, but must be accepted
• architectural sketch (ground plan: 1-2 pg.) with explanatory notes ungraded, but must be accepted
• 4-page paper (with additional sketches and illustrations) 25%
• 5-page paper (with additional sketches and illustrations) 25%

EXAMS
• mid-term exam 25%
• final exam 25%

NB! Absence from mid-term and final exams due to athletic commitments will not be granted under any circumstances!

Missed practica (I-II) must be made up and presented!

BIBLIOGRAPHY (preliminary)

* note-book (letter size, blank pages, hard cover): mandatory! $10.–

• recommended to buy (available at BOOK CENTER, 34th St.)

  * C. Strickland, The Annotated Arch (Kansas City 2001). $25.–
  * R. King, Brunelleschi’s Dome (N.Y. 2000). $13.–
  * H.-R. Hitchcock and P. Johnson, The International Style (N.Y. 1966). $ ...

• **general** (on reserve, Fisher FA Library)


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*Monumentorum artis – qui unum vidit, nullum vidit; qui mille vidit, unum vidit.*
(think about it!)

LH 9/3/07