### HISTORY OF ART 281: Modern Architecture I

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**Ms. Miranda Routh (mrouth@sas)**

**SCHEDULE**

**Fall 2009**

**LECTURES**

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* Papers due on these dates. See separate assignment sheets.

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Prof. Brownlee:** Weds. 3-5, in Jaffe 201; please make appointments beforehand in the department office.

**Ms. Routh:** Weds. 12-1pm, in Jaffe B-8; please make appointments beforehand via email.

The Final Examination will be on 16 Dec 2009 at 9 AM. Attendance at discussion sections is REQUIRED.

Weighting: proposal 15%, mid term exam 25%, term paper 30%, final exam 30%

ALL assigned work must be completed to receive a passing grade in the course.
Readings for the week beginning

S9  No reading


O5  Bergdoll (139-156).  Summerson (ch. 30 and Appendix II).  Scully (12-88).

O12  No reading

O19  No reading;  Mid-term examination on October 23


N16  Bergdoll (221-267).

N23  Scully (Furness: 88-99).

N30  Dixon and Muthesius (ch. 1: 30-73, ch. 7: 236-249).  Scully (Shingle Style: 100-117), Wojtowicz and Van Rensselaer (both complete for section).

D7  Scully (FLW: 118-127).  Wright (complete for section).
All books are on reserve in the Fisher Fine Arts Library. Those marked with an asterisk are available for purchase at the Pennsylvania Book Center, 130 South 34th Street.

Fine Arts Reserve NA956.B47 2000

Fine Arts Reserve NA1053.B69 R67 1976 & Blackboard

Fine Arts Reserve NA1046.B75

Fine Arts Reserve NA967.D59 (1978 edition)

Fine Arts Reserve NA1053.B69 P413 1974


Fine Arts Reserve NA2550.R75 1989 & Blackboard

Fine Arts Reserve NA705.S36 1988

Fine Arts Reserve NA964.S85 1993

Fine Arts Reserve NA645.S96 1971 & Blackboard

Fine Arts Reserve NA737.R5 V3 1969

Blackboard and online at http://www.upenn.edu/gazette/0503/0503books.html

Fine Arts Reserve NA737.W7 A35 1992 & Blackboard
General Considerations

This first assignment is designed to develop your skills for analyzing and writing about architecture. The challenge in such work is to interpret architecture, generalizing and extrapolating where necessary, without lapsing into over interpretation or straying away from the work of architecture itself. There is a narrow path that you must find between mere description and useless speculation. And there is no way to do this without trying. That is the purpose of this first, tiny assignment.

You may find yourself at a loss for words if this is your first experience with architectural writing. If so, consult the Dictionary of Architecture by Nikolaus Pevsner, John Fleming and Hugh Honour. You can find it in the reference section of the Fisher Fine Arts Library (in the main reading room). The call number is NA 31/F55/1976b.

The Assignment

Write a one-page, double-spaced paper about the main entrance--steps, porch, doorway, etc.--of the Morgan Building (205 South 34th Street). It was built in 1892 to house an orphanage, the Foulke Long Institute, following the design of the Philadelphia architects Walter Cope and John Stewardson, but you are not expected to know or say anything about the architects or the historical significance of the design. There is no point in doing research. Rather, concentrate on explaining the ways in which the architect has manipulated materials (and the voids left where there are no materials) in order to create specific impressions and effects. Your objectives are to define what the architect has achieved and how he has done so.

No grade will be assigned to this paper, but it must be submitted in order to receive credit for the course.

Papers are due in class on Monday, September 14.
Proposals are due at 10 A.M. on Friday, November 6  
Final papers are due at 10 A.M. on Monday, December 7

Note that this is a two-part assignment, requiring both a research proposal and a research paper.

Proposal

In order to assign each student a unique topic and to insure the timely commencement of research, you must submit a research proposal of ca. 6 pages. This should identify the major historical questions raised by each of three possible topic buildings and review the principal research resources (i.e. the most important bibliography) for each. Rank them according to your preference. You will be assigned one of these buildings.

Research paper

The assigned building will be the subject a research paper of about 15-20 pages. The primary objective of your paper must be to establish the way our understanding of the historical significance of this building has changed over the years. In other words, you must write a paper that acknowledges that history is not an objective science—that our perception of things changes over time. You should try to explain the way that changing ideas about architecture in general have changed the interpretations of your particular building.

In conducting your research, you will need to use all of your ingenuity. (A research orientation session with the Fine Arts Librarian will be held on October 14.) Begin with the assigned texts, but get to know the reference section of the Fine Arts Library like the back of your hand. In addition to the biographical dictionaries and specialized bibliographies that live there, you should take note of the Avery Obituary Index (NA 40 A87 1980) and the Avery Index of Architectural Periodicals (Z 5945 C649 1973 and available online). Always be cautious about using the online indices; some do not capture older data—and that's exactly what you want! The standard Pelican-series volumes for this period: Summerson's Architecture in Britain, (which you know) and Henry-Russell Hitchcock's Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (NA 642 H45 1968 [or later]).

You may find that your building does not attract the attention of all the authors you consult. The absence of discussion can itself be significant. On the other hand, you may also be able to deduce what an author felt about your building from what he or she has to say about other works by the same architect or by similar architects.

Remember, not all of the books and journals that you will need to consult will be available at Penn. Learn how to use interlibrary loan and Borrow Direct, and put in your orders early. Your inability to find a critically important publication will not be accepted as an excuse for not using it.

Please treat all library resources gently and with respect. If humanly possible, do not charge books out; leave even open shelf books in the library, where others can use them. Book vandals will be treated without compassion.

(over)
Plagiarism is a very serious and complicated matter. You are expected to know the rules, so ask when in doubt. The consequences are severe, and my own views on this matter are particularly strong.

The quality of your writing will be an important consideration when it comes time to evaluate your paper. Rough drafts are encouraged.

POSSIBLE TOPICS

Britain and Ireland

- St Paul's, London
- Blenheim (house and grounds)
- Christ Church, Spitalfields, London
- Houghton Hall
- Stowe (house and grounds)
- St. Martin in the Fields, London
- Customs House, Dublin
- The Adelphi, London
- Osterley Park
- Regent's Park (by Nash)
- National Gallery, London
- Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol
- King's Cross Station, London
- Royal Courts of Justice, London
- All Saints, Margaret Street, London
- Albert Memorial, London
- Assize Courts, Manchester
- United Presbyterian Church, Caledonia Rd., Glasgow
- Port Sunlight
- The Orchard, Harrow Weald

United States of America

- White House, Washington, D.C.
- University of Virginia (by Jefferson)
- Second Bank of U.S., Philadelphia
- Girard College, Philadelphia
- The Tombs (prison), New York
- St. Marks, Locust St., Philadelphia
- Brooklyn Bridge
- University of Pennsylvania Library (by Furness)
- Memorial Hall, Harvard University
- New York state capitol, Albany
- Low Library, Columbia University

German-speaking Europe

- Dies Wies (church)
- Walhalla (near Regensburg)
- Altes Museum (by Schinkel), Berlin
- Marktplatz, Karlsruhe
- Completion of Cologne cathedral
- Maximilianstrasse, Munich
- University (by Hansen), Athens
- Votivkirche (Votive Church), Vienna
- Natural History and Art Museums, Vienna

France

- Vaux le Vicomte (by Le Vaux & Le Notre)
- St. Sulpice, Paris
- Hôtel Soubise, Paris
- Place de la Concorde, Paris
- Ste. Geneviève (Panthéon), Paris
- Boullée's Newton Cenotaph
- Ledoux's barrières, Paris
- Gare de l'est, Paris
- Bibliothèque nationale, Paris
- Opéra, Paris
- Restoration of Pierrefonds
- Marseilles cathedral