Greek Architecture and Urbanism

Introduction to the art of building and city planning in the ancient Greek world, 5th–1st c. BC. Emphasis on concepts of organizing space, on issues of structure, materials, decoration, proportion, and on theory and practice of urbanism as reflected in ancient cities (Athens, Pergamon, Alexandria) and writings (Plato, Aristotle, and others). Excursions to Penn Museum and Philadelphia. No prerequisites.

Schedule of classes and topics

Jan. 15  
- urbanism and architecture, from Priene (4th c.) to Philadelphia

Jan. 20, 22  
- Classical Antiquity: concept, rebirth and revival (Vitruvius, Stuart and Revett).  
  - 1/22: start-up assignment announced.  
  - 1/22: first excursion, to Second Bank, Philadelphia

Jan. 27, 29  
- column architecture: the “primitive hut,” symmetria and proportion; the well-built human (Polykleitos’ canon).  
  - 1/27: start-up assignment due (ungraded, but pass/fail)

THE ELEMENTS – BUILDINGS

Feb. 3, 5  
- temples – the “highest” form of building: a community’s self-identity (incl. Akropolis of Athens)

Feb. 10, 12  
- buildings as sculptures: the “refinements.”  
  - 2/10: First Paper announced

Feb. 17, 19  
- porticoes, theaters, gymnasia: building for the community.

Feb. 24, 26  
- houses and household I  
  - 2/26: second excursion, to Penn Museum

Mar. 3, 5  
- houses and household II  
  - 3/3: First Paper due (at class). Late Policy on separate sheet!

Spring break, 3/7-15

URBAN FABRIC – APPROACHES AND CASE STUDIES

Mar. 17, 19  
- Reading the urban imprints (Muratori’s method).  
  - 3/19: First Exam

Mar. 24, 26  
- Founding a city – what matters? The rise of city-states.  
  - 3/26: Second Paper announced

Mar. 31, Apr. 2  
- Greek urban theories: from Hippodamos to Vitruvius
Apr. 7, 9  Case study I: Athens and the Piraeus  
Apr. 14, 16  Case study II: Pergamon, center of art  
Apr. 21, 23  Case study III: Alexandria, the “premier city” of the world. Introducing the Alexandria project  
Apr. 28  Second Exam  

happy summer!

Course requirements

Regular attendance. Homework readings, (short) writings, and sketchings. Class journal mandatory (checked, yet ungraded). Intensive image study (website).

2-pg. assignment (ungraded, but pass/fail). required

First and/or Second Paper (ca. 5–7 typewritten pages, with sketches and illustrations) 25%+25% / 33 %

First Exam 25 % / 33 %
Second Exam 25 % / 33 %

NB! Absence from exams due to athletic commitments will not be granted under any circumstances!
For graduate students the writing of both papers (ca. 7 pp.) is obligatory.

Bibliography

- mandatory  
note-book (letter size, blank pages, hard cover), available at Book Center ca. $12.–  
ancient text sources on urbanism: bulk pack, to be distributed!

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

- further recommended to buy (some titles available at Book Center):  

W. Hoepfner and E.L. Schwandner, *Stadt und Haus im klassischen


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