ARTh 589-640  CONTEMPORARY DESIGN (MLA Seminar)

Instructor  George H. Marcus
Classroom  Jaffe 104       Wednesday 5:30-8:10
Office hours   Wednesday  4:00 to 5:00   Jaffe 306
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Course Requirements
1. Each student is responsible for completing the required readings and other assignments in advance of class. Preparation and participation in class discussions are significant factors in the final grade. (25% of grade)
2. A 10-minute class presentation on the work of a significant contemporary designer is required. Goals, suggested designers, and instructions for the report will be discussed in class. (30% of grade)
3. A research paper (5,000 words), and a 20-minute class presentation, investigating a 21st century object owned by the student is the major course component. Goals, instructions, and research methods will be discussed in class. (45% of grade)

Syllabus
The required readings are listed in abbreviated form under the class dates to which they relate, and are cited in full at the end of the Syllabus. The three texts are available at the University Book Store, 3601 Walnut Street (and on line), and are on reserve in the Fine Arts library. Articles and excerpts from books are posted as Course Documents on the class Blackboard site. Additional readings may be posted during the semester.

January 13  Course Introduction
ASSIGNMENT: EXHIBITION RESPONSE PAPER (due February 2 via Blackboard). Visit the exhibition "Marcel Wanders: Daydreams" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Perelman Building) and respond to the installation and the exhibited works in a 500-word paper. In addition, consider for class discussion on February 3, how Wanders's work relates to trends in 21st century design (non-graded, but paper must be submitted on schedule for credit)

January 20  (Lecture) Twentieth-Century Design
ASSIGNMENT: DESIGNER PRESENTATION (due February 24 and March 3) Study the works and career of your chosen designer and prepare a 10-minute class presentation on the designer 's work and how it relates to trends in 21st century design. Goals and instructions will be discussed in class.
Preparation: Visit the designer web sites listed on the handout of major designers distributed last week in preparation for class discussion of the assignment and choosing your designer.
January 27  (Lecture) Trends in Twenty-First Century Design  
*Readings:* Fairs, *21st Century Design*; Van Rossem [Blackboard Folder 1]  
**ASSIGNMENT:** RESEARCH PAPER (proposal, with description and sources, due February 17; presentations April 14 and 21; final paper due May 5). Instructions will be distributed in class today.

February 3  Discussion: Marcel Wanders: Exemplar of Twenty-First Century Design  
**EXHIBITION RESPONSE PAPER DUE** (via Blackboard no later than Tuesday, February 2)  
**Preparation:** Review the research paper assignment distributed last week and bring your questions about the paper to class, when we will review the instructions and discuss research methods. Be prepared to describe the object you would like to write about.

February 10  (Lecture and Discussion) Critical Design, the Consumer, and the Everyday  
*Readings:* Blauvelt; Krippendorff; Pea; Crilly, Moultrie, and Clarkson; Olins [Blackboard Folder 2]

February 17  (Discussion) Design: How Professionals Do It  
*Readings:* Molotch, Norman, Suri [Blackboard Folder 3]  
**RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

February 24  Designer Presentations

March 3  Designer Presentations

March 10  NO CLASS (Spring Break)

March 17  (Discussion) The Process of Design: Materials and Manufacture  
*Readings:* Hudson, *Process*

March 24  (Discussion) The Process of Design: Technology  
*Readings:* Hudson, *Process*; Thackara; Kurzweil; Macdonald [Blackboard Folder 4]

March 31  (Lecture and Discussion) Eco-Centered Design  
*Readings:* Pilloton, *Design Revolution*; McDonough and Braungart; Chapman [Blackboard Folder 5]

April 7  (Lecture and Discussion) People-Centered Design  
*Readings:* Pilloton, *Design Revolution*; Coleman et al.; Huppert; Balaram [Backboard Folder 6]

April 14  Object Presentations
April 21  Object Presentations

May 5  RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

**Required Readings**
Readings marked with an asterisk* are on reserve in the Fine Arts library

**TEXTS**

**ARTICLES AND EXCERPTS**
Blackboard Folder 1

Blackboard Folder 2


Blackboard Folder 3


Blackboard Folder 4


Blackboard Folder 5


Blackboard Folder 6


Additional Sources on Reserve


