

Architecture Now

This course proposes a survey of contemporary architecture as it is designed and built today. The 21st century has seen a worldwide explosion in architectural creativity. New techniques make possible not just new forms, but also new approaches to materials and to the natural and social environments. Topics covered in the course include historical sources, innovative forms, old and new materials, urban contexts, ornamentation, sustainability, and adaptation to landscape. The basic questions are: how has architecture evolved into the present moment, what values does it represent, and what is its future direction? Among other sources we will be informed by what architects themselves have to say about their designs. This course is not to be confused with architecture courses offered before in the Senior College.

Reading: Essays in architectural history and theory by
(required): Philipp Schaerer, Peter Zumthor, Juhani Pallasmaa, Peter Buchanan, Antoine Picon.

(optional): Bernard Cache, Mario Gandelsonas, Greg Lynn.

Weeks

- 1. Introduction: characteristics, tensions, historical models.**
 - 2. Forms: sculpture and spectacle**
Philipp Schaerer, "Built Images: On the Visual Aestheticization of Today's Architecture."
Optional reading: Greg Lynn, "Architectural Curvilinearity: The Folded, the Pliant, and the Supple." *Architectural Design* No. 63, 1993.
 - 3. Old and new materials**
Peter Zumthor, "Material Compatibility," in *Atmospheres*, pp. 21-29.
Juhani Pallasmaa, "Introduction: Touching the World," in *The Eyes of the Skin*.
 - 4. Green architecture: ecology, sustainability, design justice**
Peter Buchanan, "The Ten Shades," in *Ten Shades of Green*.
 - 5. Contexts: adaptation to built environment**
Optional reading: Mario Gandelsonas, "The City as the Object of Architecture." *Assemblages* No. 37, 1998. [PDF on course website]
- Ornament: pattern and structure**
Antoine Picon, "Introduction: Architecture as Ornament?" in *Ornament*.
- 6. Topographies: landscape adaptation and modification**
Kenneth Frampton, "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." In *The Anti-Aesthetic*.

Optional reading: Bernard Cache, "Territorial Image," in *Earth Moves*.

Digitalized sources for readings:

Philipp Schaerer, "Built Images: On the Visual Aestheticization of Today's Architecture."

<http://www.transfer-arch.com/built-images>

also

https://philippschaerer.ch/site/assets/files/1142/2017-12_philipp_schaerer_built-images_zarch_no-9_o.pdf

Greg Lynn, "Architectural Curvilinearity: The Folded, the Pliant, and the Supple." *Architectural Design* No. 63, 1993.

<https://www.readingdesign.org/architectural-curvilinearity>

Peter Zumthor, "Material Compatibility," in *Atmospheres*, pp. 21-29.

<https://archive.org/details/peter-zumthor-atmospheres/page/21/mode/2up>

Juhani Pallasmaa, "Introduction: Touching the World," in *The Eyes of the Skin*.

https://arts.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Pallasmaa_The-Eyes-of-the-Skin.pdf

Peter Buchanan, "The Ten Shades," in *Ten Shades of Green*.

<https://lee6ep.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/buchanan10shadessm.pdf>

Optional reading: Mario Gandelsonas, "The City as the Object of Architecture." *Assemblages* No. 37, 1998. [PDF on course website]

Antoine Picon, "Introduction: Architecture as Ornament?" in *Ornament*.

<https://download.e-bookshelf.de/download/0002/6026/95/L-G-0002602695-0003958089.pdf>

Kenneth Frampton, "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." In *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*.

http://designtheory.fiu.edu/readings/frampton_regionalism.pdf [excerpts]; or

<https://modernindenver.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Frampton.pdf>

Optional reading: Bernard Cache, "Territorial Image," in *Earth Moves*.

<https://altexploit.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/bernard-cache-earth-moves-the-furnishing-of-territories.pdf>

Bibliography:

Vladimir Belogolevsky, *Imagine Buildings Floating Like Clouds*, New York, 2022.

Peter Buchanan, *Ten Shades of Green: Architecture and the Natural World*. New York, 2005.

Bernard Cache, *Earth Moves: The Furnishing of Territories*. Cambridge, MA 1995.

Ceferin, Petra, *The Resistant Object of Architecture: A Lacanian Perspective*. London, 2020.

Mark Gelertner, *Sources of Architectural Form*, Manchester, UK, 1995.

Paul Goldberger, *Why Architecture Matters*, New Haven, 2009.

Oleg Grabar, *The Mediation of Ornament*. Princeton, 1992.

Hal Foster, Ed., *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*. Seattle, 1983.

_____. *The Art-Architecture Complex*. Cambridge, MA, 1995.

Kenneth Frampton. "Architecture in the Age of Globalization," in *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*. Fourth edition. London, 2007.

Rebecca Henn and Andrew Hoffman, eds. *Constructing Green*. Cambridge, MA, 2014.

Charles Jencks and Karl Kropf, *Theories and Manifestos of Contemporary Architecture*. Winterbourne, 1997.

Shiloh Krupar and Stefan Al, "Notes on the Society of the Spectacle/Brand," in *The SAGE Handbook of Architectural Theory*, London, 2008.

Greg Lynn, "Architectural Curvilinearity: The Folded, the Pliant, and the Supple." *Architectural Design* No. 63, 1993.

_____. *Animate Form*. Princeton. 1999.

Brian O'Doherty, *Inside the White Cube: The Ideology of the Gallery Space*, Berkeley, 1976.

Juhani Pallasmaa, *The Eyes of the Skin. Architecture and the Senses*. New York, 2005.

Antoine Picon, *Digital Culture in Architecture*. Basel, 2010.

_____. *Ornament: The Politics of Architecture and Subjectivity*. Chichester, 2013.

Jacques Rancière, *Politics and Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible*. London, 2004.

Philipp Shaerer, "Built Images: On the Visual Aestheticization of Today's Architecture." *Zarch* No. 9, 2017.

Ignasi de Solà-Morales, *Differences : Topographies of Contemporary Architecture*. Cambridge, MA, 1997.

Simon Unwin, *Analysing Architecture*. New York, 2014.

Anthony Vidler, *Warped Space: Art, Architecture, and Anxiety in Modern Culture*. Cambridge, MA, 2000.

Richard Weston, *Materials, Form, and Architecture*. New Haven, 2003.

Edward O. Wilson, *Biophilia: The Human Bond with Other Species*. Cambridge, MA, 1986.

Peter Zumthor, *Atmospheres: Architectural Environments, Surrounding Objects*. Basel, 2008.

Online architecture sites:

archdaily.com

architonic.com

archello.com

archi-graphi.fr

designboom.com

dezeen.com