Spring 2010

elective courses

B.Arch., M.Arch., M.A. and Ph.D
Theory
Electives
Arch 3308: Special Topics in Theory of Architecture: Masks of Imagination

Course Description:

This course addresses the imagination as something greater than the resourceful or creative capacity of the mind or of the magical formation of ideas or images not present to the senses. Rather, it posits the imagination as a social and cultural construct that informs, guides and directs the production of images: a proto-theoretical construction that is already and always present in the making of such things as architecture.

There is in the truly diverse and varied discourse of contemporary life a plethora of imaginations (historical, philosophical, scientific and religious) weaving among one another to constitute the dance we call the artistic and architectural culture of the present. The computational imagination, for example, is an evolving scaffold reaching beyond the workings of the machine itself and what it may allow us to envision but towards a conception of society, a re-conception of the 'real' and even toward the mystical mathematics and philosophy of Georg Cantor or Giuliano Bruno).

In this course we will examine the co-existence of these multiple modes of imagination in the work of contemporary architecture and in the work of several contemporary architects and artists. The seminar will confront dominant historical as well as more recent modes of imagination that continually reveal themselves within western culture - from archaic thought through postmodernity and the post-critical. Though not a history course, the course relies on a loose chronological sequence to structure the course material.

Among the many architects, authors and artists to be examined will be: John Hejduk, OMA, Eisenman Architects, Morphosis, and Asymptote Architecture (among others) along with the artists Richard Serra, Rene Magritte, and the authors Raymond Rousell and Octavio Paz.

The primary texts and supplementary reading materials will demand that the student make transitions and translations between historical and contemporary materials. A variety of materials will be examined including literary, cinematic, artistic and architectural texts.
Arch 3308/6308 CRP 5506

Special Topics in Theory of Architecture: Design in Real Estate Development

Professor Henry Richardson

Wednesday 10:10am - 12:05pm
115 W. Sibley
For early 20th century architects like Bruno Taut, Walter Gropius and Frank Lloyd Wright, visiting Japan and imbibing Japanese design sensibility was both a revelation and a confirmation of much of their thinking regarding the direction of their own work.

The course is an introduction to and an analysis of the architecture and gardens of Japan. Interpreting the unique geopolitical situation of Japan, as a sheltering archipelago longing for continental sophistication, will suggest how isolation and borrowings continue to shape the forms of Japanese architecture and gardens. In a related context we will investigate how the revered and ethereal craft of shaping paper, wood, stone and water has transformed the simplest of materials into archetypical constructions. Cultural phenomena such as ma (space-time continuum) oku (the inner depth) yohaku no bi (the beauty of extra whiteness), shakkei (borrowed landscapes), and others will be explored to reveal the forces shaping structure and space. Since an understanding of the evolution of social and political discourse in Japan is necessary to fully comprehend the unique meaning of its constructed environment, additional attention will be given to these aspects of the culture—especially the spiritual—as they exert an influence on various expressions of form.

Class format will consist of lectures, films, discussions and readings. Two exams will be given during the semester. In addition, each student will be required to complete either a project that represents an exploration of a concept, form, characteristic or influence associated with Japanese architecture and gardens, or a research paper.

Leonard Mirin
Friday 10:10 – 12:05
3 Credits
ARCH 6308 Graduate/Undergraduate Seminar
Spring 2010

Place Rand Hall 201/ Computer Lab
Time: Wednesdays, 7:30pm - 9:25pm
Instructor: Yanni A. Loukissas, PhD
Contact: yal1@cornell.edu

PROCESSING CITIES

In this seminar, students will use computational modeling to critically engage 20th century discursive models of cities, from ‘The Image of the City’ to ‘Ecological Urbanism.’ The class will create interactive applications that visualize these models, but also challenge them by opening the city to new computational interpretations. Students will learn to use Processing, a simple, open-source programming language for visual designers, to image cities and make them legible in pluralistic ways. The practical goal of the course is to empower students with basic skills in computer programming, which they can use to build an unlimited range of applications for personal use on future projects in school and practice. The intellectual goal of the course is to prompt students to ask how architecture's theories of city form, presented as interactive geometries, might be reconsidered in relationship to computation. Students will complete weekly programming assignments and a final web-based interactive application. Class size is limited to 15 people. Prerequisite: Drawing III - Digital Media or equivalent. No prior knowledge of computer programming required. Processing Website: http://processing.org/
Architecture, Culture & Society Electives
Course Overview: Hurricane Katrina all but obliterated the Lower 9th Ward; leaving it more devastated than other parts of the city. Those who survived, remained or returned are now looking to rebuild their community. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the population of New Orleans’s Lower 9th Ward was predominately African American with homes built on what was formerly 19th century colonial Louisiana plantation land. This area of New Orleans that gave birth to Jazz, the founding of Mardi Gras, gumbo, spontaneous musical marching bands and funeral processions. New Orleans is one of the only American cities to have integrated French, Spanish, African, and Native American influences into every aspect of its built environment and socio-cultural milieu. Influences that survive as a unique experience that continues to be reflected in the city’s socio-spatial traditions and built fabric.

Stepping outside conventional notions of sustainability we employ the lens of socio-spatial experiences & culture to examine what is sustainable in terms of people. Students will conduct fieldwork that will culminate in their own research based design solutions for residents of the Lower 9th Ward.

Course Format & Requirements: Research seminar including discussions and lectures with weekly assigned reading and discussion & a final research project & oral presentation of this project.

Who: You!
Where: New Orleans & Ithaca!
When: Spring 2010

Important Dates
New Orleans Fieldwork Trip (January 5-21, 2010)
Class Session
Mondays 8-9:55 am (January 25-May 8, 2010)

Professor: Krystal Johnson
klj53@cornell.edu
Visual
Representations
Electives
Sojourns:
Excursions in Architectural Publications
ARCH 4500
Course Schedule: Wednesdays 7:30pm-9:25pm
Location: 261B Fine Arts Library, Sibley Hall
Prerequisites: Class will be limited and permission of instructor required
Professor: Caroline O’Donnell

Since Vitruvius, the design and production of Architecture has been supported, narrated, and motivated by writing. *Sojourns* will reunite architecture and writing at Cornell. Through both the study of publications of the last 50 years, and engagement with the practicalities of publishing, the class will culminate in the re-launch of the Cornell Journal for Architecture in 2010.

In his introduction to the first Cornell Journal of Architecture in 1982, editor Michael D. Markovitz described the new publication, writing: “This journal is not meant to be a yearbook or a comprehensive statement about architecture today, rather it is meant to offer a collection of work that demonstrates the various avenues of thought present at Cornell.”

Sojourns will investigate 20th century architectural publications, contemporary architectural publications, university and student publications, web-based publications, and publications outside the discipline, establishing a context in which the CJA was founded and investigating current culture in order to ask: how should we publish now?
EXTRATERRITORIAL MAPPING: TRICKSTER MANUAL OF SPATIAL TYPOLOGIES THAT HAVE NO NAME

Last house standing in redevelopment area in Chongqing, China / Private farm house in the island of M62 Highway, England / Filipino domestic helpers' hangout at HKSB atrium space, Hong Kong

Class Schedule
T 11:15-1:10
Class Location
TBD
Instructor
Yehre Suh
Email: ys464@cornell.edu
Office: B44 E. Sibley Hall
Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00

Course Description
The seminar will study the status and potential of architecture as a Trickster of power.

Under the fluid rubric of autocratic corporatist governments, trans-national conglomerates and global capitalism, architecture is an efficient machine through which states and non-states accumulate political and economic justifications. Architecture becomes the material reification of power in a game that preaches the doctrines of the entrepreneur-plutocrats in an ever-expanding neo-liberal world. But with all its glorious past and its delightful aptitude to serve power, architecture also has the capacity and agility to engage in subterfuge activities and meta-discourses utilizing the same set of rules. This is where the presumed innocence of architecture provides the ability to masquerade and navigate the grounds as a Trickster to understand, reveal and restructure the strategies of control and confusion. Tricksters are boundary crossers characterized by voracious appetite, ingenious theft, mischief, opportunism and cheekiness. For those who wish to play the game, architecture is the ultimate trickster that is fluid in the realms of power encoded with rules that can be played both ways.

The seminar intends to study and analyze through strategic mapping the typologies of spatial products and infrastructural systems that are extraterritorial zones of undefined, unregulated programs of the global economy and international politics and the mechanism through which autocratic politics operate within these spaces. Special Economic Zones, Bonded Warehouses, Free Ports, Special Tourism Zones, International Maritime Law, Detention Camps are arbiters of trans-national jurisdiction where new typologies of homogenized global spatial production are being established. But the intense spatial homogenization also entails growing exclusion, inequalities, and crisis of identity resulting in the diverse methodologies of appropriation of space. Through the study and mapping of infrastructural, urban and architectural typologies of extraterritorial spaces, the seminar intends to navigate the realm through which architecture can attempt to encode the mechanisms of globalization and its potential manipulation.

Part 1 of the seminar will consist of readings and discussions. We will examine diverse discourse regarding extraterritorial spatial products, systems and its relationship to the field of architecture from the likes of Easterling, Weizman, Appadurai, Sudjik, Latour, Ranciere, Sloterdijk, Agamben, Ong, Aureli, Varnelis and others. Part 2 will focus on the research, analysis and mapping of spatial products and typologies of specific program types. The final assignment of the seminar is to produce the Trickster Manual of Spatial Products that Have No Name.
Building Technology Electives
ARCH 4605 Sustainable Architecture: the Science and Politics of Green Building

Professor Jonathan Ochshorn

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:15am - 12:05pm. Room: 318 W. Sibley.

Description: Students will examine the five basic components of sustainable building design (site, water, energy, materials, and IEQ), first from a historical perspective, and then as implemented through the LEED/USGBC rating system, in each case comparing the issues raised by building and environmental science with the political context within which those issues are considered.

While not its primary purpose, this course will provide an excellent introduction for students planning to take the LEED Green Associate or Accredited Professional (AP) exam.

Format and Procedures: Lecture and seminar format, with individual student presentations and field trips to (or discussions about) LEED-certified local buildings.

Open to all B.Arch. and M.Arch. students, as well as others in the university with an interest in green buildings and the political/economic context in which "green" is defined.

Fulfills B.Arch. "technology" elective requirement.

3 credit hours.

Prerequisite: none.
Arch 4605

Special Topic in Construction:
_Digital Metal_

Professor Michael Silver

Monday 7:30 - 9:25pm
142 E. Sibley
History of Architecture & Urban Development Electives
This course surveys American architecture and building from the late 19th century to the present day. The themes of technology, money, art, and urbanism are the conceptual connective tissue of the class. Modernity (the experiences of modern life) and modernisms (the architectural languages of modern life) will be highlighted in the works of H. H. Richardson, Charles F. McKim, Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, Louis Kahn, Eero Saarinen, Gordon Matta-Clark, Richard Meier, Frank Gehry, Diller + Scofidio, Renfrow, Thom Mayne, and others. The mediation and re-presentation of buildings and spaces through other media (music, photography, painting, dance, poetry, literature, and film) are also explored. Prerequisites: Arch 1801-1802 or instructor’s permission.
Arch 3819

Special Topics in History of Architecture and Urbanism

Professor Chris Otto

Thursday 2:30 - 4:30pm
ARCH 3819/LANAR 5250
History of American Landscape Architecture
Spring 2010

Prospect Park, Brooklyn

This course examines the development of landscape architecture as a distinctive expression of the American experience from the time of Thomas Jefferson to the present. The course traces the influences of the physical landscape, the cultural attitudes and assumptions of democracy, technology and Capitalism, and the immigrant baggage of memory on the form of urban parks, private and corporate estates, campuses, suburban and public housing, transportation planning, recreation grounds and other aspects of open space design in which landscape architects have made significant contributions.

Course requirements include 1) a midterm and final exam; 2) a sketchbook documenting the work of a significant American landscape architect, a typical genre associated with the American tradition and a specific landscape detail.

Leonard Mirin  Tuesday/Thursday 12:20 – 1:10  3 Credits
Arch 6805

Practicum: Legacy of Cornell Conference

Professor Chris Otto

Monday 10:10am - 12:05pm
115 W. Sibley
An exploration of maximum and minimum cities (like Mumbai and Detroit) where migrations and displacements of power, populations, economies (formal and informal) nature and hinterlands, heritage and contemporary built environments and infrastructure, and media representations have exploded or imploded urban and built forms. The life and death cycles of selected cities in Asia, Africa, Central and Latin America, North America, Europe, and the Middle East are the focus. Guest lecturers from area studies, landscape, film, preservation, and history will present their research, and film programs will be screened. Requirements include readings, analysis and discussion, and final research papers and/or projects.

PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED FOR ENROLLMENT
The aim of this course is to provide a schedule of discussion topics, lectures and readings that draw out the ways in which the vernacular has been understood as a value in architectural practice as well as, more neutrally in the scholarly traditions of the humanities, notably in anthropology. We will undertake case studies that explore that role of the vernacular tradition in the formation of national and communal identities. We will look at examples of university campuses, government centers, museums and hotels that owe an apparent debt to the “folk.” We will thus attempt to define the role the vernacular building has been popularly assigned in the transmission of tradition and the understanding of social history. A wide range of writers who have had something to say on these matters will be consulted including Ananda Coomaraswamy, Geoffrey Bawa, LeCorbusier and in this his centennial and final year, Claude Levi Strauss. Examples will be drawn from Asia, the Americas and Europe.
Sensational Space
architecture and the 7 senses

This seminar will explore the relationship between the built environment and the senses. Drawing upon recent theoretical work in sensory anthropology and other fields, we will explore a series of sites across time and space. An original research project will be required of each student.

Graduate Seminar in Architectural History (prior permission required)
Prof. D. Medina Lasansky (VMI34_Rand 120C)
Arch 6819
Spring 2010_Fridays 10:10-12:05_Fine Arts Library Seminar Room
Rome & New York Electives
Arch 3308

Special Topics in Theory of Architecture:  
*Landscape and Architecture*

Professor Stefan Tischler
Arch 3117

Contemporary Italian Culture through film

Carolina Campaglia
Arch 4509

Special Topics in Visual Representation: *Introduction to Photography*

Professor Liana Miuccio
Arch 3819

Special Topics in History of Architecture
And Urbanism

*Urban Design, Architecture & Art in Renaissance Rome*

Professor Jeffrey Blanchard
Arch 3820

Special Topics in History of Architecture and Urbanism

*Topography & Urban History of Ancient Rome*

Professor Jan Gadeyne
Arch 3308

Special Topic in the Theory of Architecture I

Co-meets with Arch 4603
Arch 4603

Special Topic in Structures

Co-meets with Arch 3308
Arch 3819

Special Topics in History of Architecture and Urbanism

Professor Masha Panteleyeival