

# Cornell AAP

department of architecture



# Spring 2010

elective courses

B.Arch., M.Arch., M.A. and Ph.D

# Theory Electives

## MASKS OF IMAGINATION



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
Spring 2010  
Instructor: James Williamson**

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

# Arch 3309

## Elements, Principles, and Theories in Japanese Architecture



**For early 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



Image Credit: Valence by Ben Fry, co-inventor of Processing.

In this seminar, students will use computational modeling to critically engage 20<sup>th</sup> 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



## ARCH 4418: Special Topics in Architecture, Culture & Society

### Culture & Sustainability in New Orleans Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Course Overview:** Hurricane Katrina all but obliterated the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Ward was predominately African American with homes built on what was formerly 19<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## When Does Social Engagement + Activism + Politics = Architecture?



### ONLY in this class!

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 HSBC atrium space, Hong Kong

### Class Schedule

T 11:15-1:10

### Class Location

TBD

### Instructor

Yehre Suh

Email: [ys464@cornell.edu](mailto: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

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**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



Samuel Gottscho, Albion Hotel (Polevitzky and Russell, architects) Miami Beach, 1939

## **ARCH 3811/AMERICAN STUDIES 3811**

### **AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING II**

**Professor Mary Woods, <mnw5@cornell.edu>**

**Spring 2010 – Tuesdays/Thursdays, 2:30-4:25**

**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



Ganapati Festival, Mumbai

**ARCH 6816 GRADUATE SEMINAR /SPECIAL TOPICS, URBAN AND  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

**EXTREME URBANISMS: MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM CITIES**

**PROFESSOR MARY N. WOODS**

**SPRING 2010 - WEDNESDAYS 10:10 AM - 12 NOON**

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**

# ARCHITECTURE 6816: EAST MEETS WEST: THEORIZING THE VERNACULAR

Professor Bonnie MacDougall

Organization Meeting: W January 27 5 pm 221 W Sibley



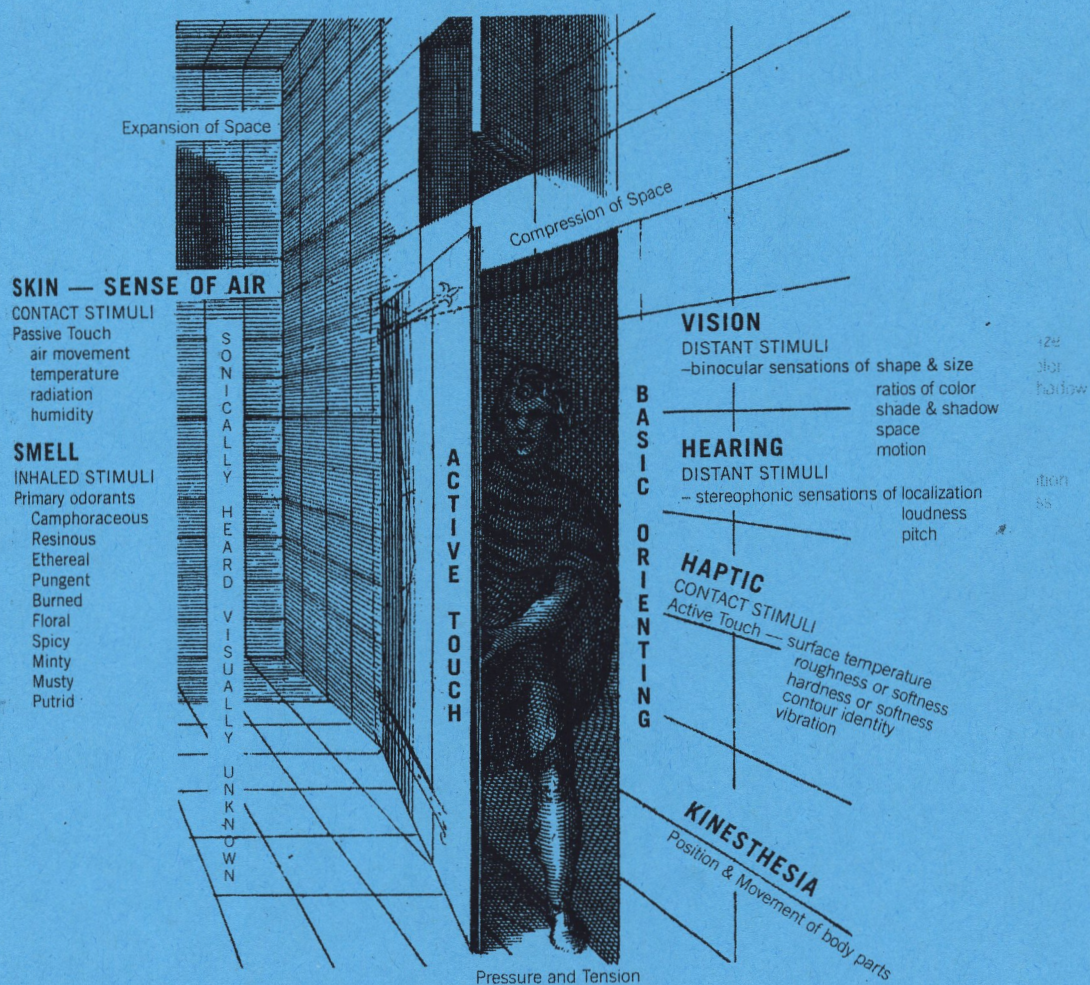
The aim of this course is to provide a schedule of discussion topics, lectures and readings that draw out the ways in which the vernacular has been understood as a value in architectural practice as well as, more neutrally in the scholarly traditions of the humanities, notably in anthropology. We will 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 (DML34\_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 Tischer

## 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 Panteleyeva