



ARCH 6308 SPRING 2020 / WRITING THE CITY / CORNELL AAP/NYC / MONDAY 10:00-13:00
INSTRUCTOR: CYNTHIA DAVIDSON, EDITOR OF *LOG* AND WRITING ARCHITECTURE BOOKS

The discourse of architecture and cities is created and sustained by the writing of architects, critics, and historians. This seminar introduces students to the importance of writing in architecture and ranges from why one needs to write to how to write to what to write. Students will read important examples of writing in architecture by Le Corbusier, Rem Koolhaas, and Keller Easterling, and in cultural theory by Roland Barthes and Walter Benjamin, as well as read contemporary critics. Each reading illustrates different ways of perceiving and imagining architecture and the city that can only be conveyed through writing. Collectively, the writings serve both as a minor history of cities and as idea models for the students' own writing.

Lectures, readings, and class discussions will be enriched by short, in-class writing and/or editing and rewriting exercises that students will read aloud in class. In addition to weekly reading assignments, there will be weekly assignments to write 250-word observations on New York City, which will be seen as a living laboratory of ideas at many scales.

Images: Eiffel Tower, Paris; Rockefeller Center, New York.

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