

## **BRYN MAWR COLLEGE**

### **Cities 254: History of Modern Architecture**

**Fall 2006**

**Dr. Ingrid Steffensen**

**Emily Bereskin (TA); Jennifer Wagner (undergraduate TA)**

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**Course meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am-12noon, Carpenter 21**

### **Course goals**

The fundamental goal of this course is to provide a chronologically sequenced overview of the development of architecture and the built environment from the late eighteenth century to the present primarily in Europe and the United States. In so doing, however, we will also keep in mind the question of what constitutes modernity and attempt to construct different approaches to defining such a nuanced term.

### **Course requirements**

Requirements for the course will be two exams (a midterm and a final) and a project, each given equal weight. The exams will test basic knowledge of the core monuments via slide identification, terminology, and short essays. The project will be to create a building of your own via the accumulation of a portfolio of a series of assignments culminating in a building design. As this is a history and not an architectural design course, the assessment of the project will be based on the background work, historical and aesthetic analysis and consistency with which the project meets the guidelines provided. A separate handout with more thorough explanations and a suggested bibliography will be provided.

### **The project breakdown:**

- Sept. 15:         Select building type, date & style
  
- Sept. 29:         Prepare list of comparable buildings & initial bibliography for building type, period and chosen style (minimum 10 sources)
  
- Oct. 27:         Building analysis for actual building of similar type (3-5 pp)
  
- Nov. 17:         Building program (2 pp) & revised bibliography, sketches
  
- Dec. 13:         Labeled plan and elevation & written explication of building (5 pp)

### **Course Texts:**

Henry Russell-Hitchcock, *Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.)  
Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*

## Course schedule:

WEEK 1 (September 4-8)

### **The Eighteenth Century: Revolutions**

September 4 Introduction: a brief architectural primer  
September 6 Eighteenth century: revolutions political, intellectual, artistic  
September 8 Eighteenth century: Revolutionary Classicism—Boullée, Ledoux

Readings: Hitchcock, Introduction, 13-22  
Frampton, Chapter 1, “Cultural Transformations,” 12-19

WEEK 2 (September 11-15)

### **The Eighteenth Century into the early Nineteenth Century: Revivals**

September 11 Eighteenth century & beyond: the U.S., Thomas Jefferson, and Classicism  
September 13 Eighteenth century & beyond: Picturesque and Gothic Revival in England  
—Edmund Burke, Walpole, Nash, Pugin  
September 15 **project part 1 due; topic: building types**

Readings: Hitchcock, Chapter 5, “The New World,” 121-142 and  
(part of) Chapter 6, “The Picturesque and Gothic Revival,” 143-55

WEEK 3 (September 18-22)

### **The Nineteenth Century: Germany & England**

September 18 Germany: von Klenze, Schinkel, Semper  
September 20 Neoclassicism: Soane, Thomson, Nash, Smirke, Barry  
September 22 High Victorian Gothic

Readings: Hitchcock  
Chapter 2, “The Doctrine of Durand,” 47-73  
Chapter 4, “Great Britain,” 97-120 and  
Chapter 10, “High Victorian Gothic in England,” 247-270

WEEK 4 (September 25-29)

### **The Nineteenth Century: France and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts**

September 25 The Neo-Grecque, Labrouste  
September 27 The Ecole des Beaux-Arts; Garnier  
September 29 **project part 2 due; topic: world’s fairs**

Readings: Hitchcock  
(part of) Chapter 1, “Romantic Classicism Around 1800,” 32-38  
(part of) Chapter 3, “France and the Rest of the Continent,” 75-86  
(part of) Chapter 8, “Second Empire Paris &c,” 191-207

WEEK 5 (October 2-6)

**The Nineteenth Century: the United States**

October 2                   Nineteenth-century revivalism  
October 4                   Richardson & Hunt  
October 6                   McKim, Mead & White; the City Beautiful

Readings:                   Hitchcock  
   (part of) Chapter 11 “Later Neo-Gothic Outside England,” 271-76  
   Chapter 13, “H. H. Richardson, McKim, Mead & White,” 311-26

WEEK 6 (October 9-13)

**The Nineteenth Century: New Technologies**

October 9                   New building materials—iron & glass  
October 11                  United States: Skyscrapers, Sullivan  
October 13                  **MIDTERM**

Readings:                   Hitchcock  
   Chapter 7, “Building with Iron and Glass: 1790-1855,” 169-190  
   (part of) Chapter 14, “Commercial Architecture &c,” 334-352  
   Frampton, “Adler and Sullivan: the Auditorium &c,” 51-56

**FALL BREAK** (October 16-20)

WEEK 7 (October 23-27)

**The Twentieth Century—to WWI**

October 23                  Arts & Crafts; Early Wright  
October 25                  Art Nouveau  
October 27                  **project part 3 due; topic: public art, memorials**

Readings:                   Frampton  
   “FLW and the Myth of the Prairie 1890-1916,” 57-63  
   “Structural Rationalism &c,” 64-73  
   Hitchcock  
   Chapter 16, “Beginnings of Art Nouveau: Victor Horta,” 383-95  
   Chapter 17, “The Spread of the Art Nouveau,” 397-417  
   Chapter 19, “FLW and His California Contemporaries,” 433-454

WEEK 8 (October 30-November 3)

**The Twentieth Century—to WWI**

October 30 Italian Futurism: Sant'Elia  
November 1 Wagner, Loos, and the Deutsche Werkbund  
November 3 Auguste Perret; Tony Garnier & the Cité Industrielle

Readings:

Frampton  
“Wagner, Olbrich and Hoffmann 1886-1912,” 78-83  
“Antonio Sant'Elia and Futurist Architecture 1909-14,” 84-89  
“Adolf Loos and the Crisis of Culture 1896-1931” 90-95  
“Tony Garnier and the Industrial City 1899-1918,” 100-104  
“The Deutsche Werkbund 1898-1927,” 109-115  
Hitchcock  
Chapter 18, “Auguste Perret and Tony Garnier,” 419-432  
(part of) Chapter 21, “The First Generation,” 467-476

WEEK 9 (November 6-10)

**The Twentieth Century—WWI to WWII**

November 6 Expressionism, De Stijl  
November 8 The Bauhaus & Walter Gropius  
November 10 Early Mies van der Rohe

Readings:

Frampton  
“The Glass Chain: European Expressionism 1910-25,” 116-122  
“De Stijl 1917-31,” 142-48  
“The Bauhaus: Evolution of an Idea 1919-32,” 123-29  
“Mies van der Rohe and Significance of Fact 1921-33,” 161-166  
Hitchcock  
(part of) Chapter 22, “Second Generation: Early Work,” 499-511

WEEK 10 (November 13-17)

**The Twentieth Century—Le Corbusier**

November 13 Le Corbusier (part 1)  
November 15 Le Corbusier (part 2)  
November 17 **project part 4 due; topic: architects & the cult of celebrity**

Readings:

Frampton  
“Le Corbusier and the Esprit Nouveau 1907-31,” 149-160  
“Le Corbusier and the Ville Radieuse 1928-46,” 178-185  
“Le Corbusier and Monumentalization of the Vernacular,” 224-230  
Hitchcock  
(part of) Chapter 22, “Second Generation: Early Work,” 492-99  
Chapter 23, “Later Work of the Second Generation,” 517-524  
Le Corbusier, *Towards a New Architecture (Vers une architecture)*

WEEK 11 (November 20-22—no class Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving)

**The Twentieth Century—Frank Lloyd Wright**

November 20 Frank Lloyd Wright (part 1)

November 22 Frank Lloyd Wright (part 2)

Readings:

Frampton

“FLW and the Disappearing City 1929-63,” 186-192

Hitchcock

Chapter 25, “Architecture at the Mid-Century,” 555-591

WEEK 12 (November 27-December 1)

**The Twentieth Century—1945-present**

November 27 The International Style in the U.S.: Mies, Johnson, &c

November 29 Louis Kahn and I. M. Pei

December 1 Alternatives to the International Style (Aalto, Saarinen, Brutalism, &c)

Readings:

Frampton

“Mies and the Monumentalization of Technique,” 231-237

“The International Style: Theme and Variations 1925-65,” 248-261

“The Eclipse of the New Deal,” 238-247

“Alvar Aalto and the Nordic Tradition,” 192-202

Hitchcock

(part of) Chapter 23, “Later Work of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation,” 524-530

Chapter 25, “Architecture at the Mid Century,” 555-576

“Epilogue,” 577-591

WEEK 13 (December 4-8)

**The Twentieth Century—1945-present**

December 4 Traditionalism from Lutyens to Terry

December 6 Postmodernism: Venturi, Graves, Moore

December 8 Stylistic pluralism

Readings:

Hitchcock, Chapter 24, “Architecture Called Traditional,” 531-554

William Curtis, Chapter 32, “Pluralism in the 1970s,” *Modern Architecture Since 1900*, 589-613

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture

WEEK 14 (December 11-13)

**The Twentieth Century—1945-present**

December 11 The last 20 years

December 13 **project exhibition: design & explication due**

Readings:

William Curtis, *Modern Architecture Since 1900*

Chapter 33, “Continuity and Change in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> c.,” 617-33

Chapter 35, “Technology, Abstraction & Ideas of Nature,” 657-84

**FINAL EXAM: DATE & TIME TBD**

**(during exam week, Dec. 17-22; as determined by Registrar’s Office)**

