

	ARCH 859C.01	History/Theory Core Elective: Autonomy versus Place
Spring 2016		

Credits: 3
Type of Course: History/Theory Seminar (Elective)
Class Meetings: 14
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Capacity: 15
Section /Instructor: Erik Ghenoiu
Time and Location: 2:00-4:50PM, HHS 213

Learning Objectives:

Autonomy versus Place: Trends in Architectural and Urban Design theory since 1960

Parallel and often mutually exclusive ideologies have characterized much of the discourse of architectural and urban design since the early 1960s: postmodern versus (neo-)modern, historicist versus avant-garde, "sustainable" versus digitally-generated. Superficially, these divides seem only to reflect an age-old architectural tension between social and cultural participation on the one hand and construction and artistic expression on the other, or more simply put, function versus form. This course will attempt to go deeper than this by investigating two specific ideas that have woven through either side of each of these divides: the idea of "place," place-making and cultural landscape, and the idea of architectural "autonomy" from external ideas of history, culture, or aesthetics. From the sixties to the eighties, these ideas were articulated into zealously-held theoretical positions about the fundamental role of design in the urban environment. Both of them were intended to move beyond perceived problems in architectural modernism, but their divergent premises led them to call for very different formal solutions, which inevitably brought them into conflict. This course will argue that this conflict has had visible effects on nearly all notable urban architecture of the last fifteen years.

The course will begin with an introduction to the two theoretical positions, then briefly trace their origins and the influences that led to their invention. Then from the 1960s forward, the course will consider major designers and theorists from these camps including Charles Moore, Robert Venturi, J. B. Jackson, Manfredo Tafuri, Peter Eisenman, Colin Rowe, Aldo Rossi, Leon Krier, and ending with a consideration of how these themes play out in the work of Rem Koolhaas and in key projects such as Diller & Scofidio and Field Operations' High Line.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and participation in the seminar. Arriving more than fifteen minutes late will constitute an absence. Two unexcused absences will result in a whole letter grade deduction from your final grade; three will result in a failing grade.
- Assigned readings. Students must come to class ready to discuss the assigned readings each week. There is no required text for this course, as the readings are spread widely from many different sources. *All required readings will be available as PDF scans on the course website or on reserve at the library.* NOTE THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMPACT READINGS PER SESSION. THE REST OF THE SOURCES LISTED ARE BACKGROUND READINGS FOR STUDENT PAPERS.
- Leading discussion. Each student will be assigned to help lead discussion for one session of the course.
- Timely completion of two essays, the first an analytical response of approximately 4 pages, and the second a short research paper of approximately 10 double-spaced pages.

Methods of Assessment:

- Class attendance and participation in class discussions : 30%
- Leading discussions: 20%
- Essay assignments: 50%

Full Bibliography including non-required background readings:

- Angélil, Marc, and Anna Klingmann. "Hybrid Morphologies: Infrastructure, Architecture, Landscape," *Daidalos* 73, 2000, pp. 16-25.
- Editors of the *Architectural Review*, primarily Nikolaus Pevsner and Hugh de Cronin Hastings, selections. Aureli, Pier Vittorio. *The Project of Autonomy: Politics of Architecture within and against Capitalism*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2008.
- Berger, Alan. *Drosscape: Wasting Land in urban America*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.
- Collins, Christiane C. *Werner Hegemann and the Search for Universal Urbanism*. W. W. Norton, 2005.
- Collins, George, and Christiane Crasemann Collins. *Camillo Sitte and the Birth of Modern City Planning*. Random House, 1965.
- Cosgrove, Denis and Stephen Daniels, eds. *The Iconography of Landscape: Essays on the Symbolic Representation, Design, and Use of Past Environments*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1988.
- Cullen, Gordon. *The Concise Townscape*. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1971.
- Drexler, Arthur, ed. *Five Architects: Eisenman, Graves, Gwathmey, Hejduk, Meier*. Oxford, 1975.
- Eisenman, Peter. *Houses of Cards*. Oxford, 1987.
- . *Eisenman Inside Out: selected Writings, 1963-1988*. Yale, 2004.
- Frampton, Kenneth. "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance", in *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*. Edited by Hal Foster. Bay Press, 1983.
- Ghenoiu, Erik. "Charles W. Moore and Place," *Fabrications*, forthcoming.
- Gregory, Daniel. "An Indigenous Thing: the Story of William Wurster and the Gregory Farmhouse." *Places* 7:1 19xx, pp. 78-93.
- Hays, K. Michael, ed. *Architecture Theory since 1968*. MIT Press, 1998.
- . *Architecture's Desire: reading the Late Avant-Garde*. MIT Press, 2009.
- Hegemann, Werner, and Elbert Peets. *The American Vitruvius: an Architect's Handbook of Civic Art*. 1922; Princeton Architectural Press, 1988.
- Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. *Landscape in Sight: Looking at America*. Edited by Susan Lefkowitz-Horowitz. Yale Univ. Press, 1997.
- Katz, Peter, ed. *The New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community*. McGraw Hill, 1994.
- Kaufmann, Emil. *Von Ledoux bis le Corbusier: Ursprung und Entwicklung der autonomen Architektur*. Passen, 1933.
- Koolhaas, Rem, Junkspace," in Chuihua Judy Chung, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, and Sze Tsung Leong, eds. *Harvard Design School Guide to Shopping*. Taschen, 2001. pp. 408-421.
- Krieger, Alex, ed., with William Lennertz. *Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk: Towns and Town-Making Principles*. Rizzoli, 1992.
- Lampugnani, Vittorio Magnago. "A History of German Modern Architecture: 1, from the Kulturarbeiten to the Deutscher Werkbund." *A + U* 1992:02, no. 257. pp. 47-59.
- Lowenthal, David, and Martyn J. Bowden, eds. *Geographies of the Mind: Essays in Historical Geosophy in Honor of John Kirtland Wright*. Oxford Univ. Press, 1976.
- Meinig, Don, ed. *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*. Oxford Univ. Press, 1979.
- Mitchell, Don. *Cultural Geography, a Critical Introduction*. Blackwell, 2000.
- Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl. *Native Genius in Anonymous Architecture in North America*. 1957; Schocken, 1976.
- Moore, Charles W. *You Have to Pay for the Public Life: Selected Essays of Charles W. Moore*. Edited by Kevin Keim. MIT Press, 2001.
- , Gerald Allen, and Donlyn Lyndon. *The Place of Houses*. Holt, Rhinehart, & Winston, 1974.
- Mumford, Lewis. "The Bay Region Style," reprinted in Joan Ockman, ed. *Architecture Culture 1943-1968, a Documentary Anthology*. Rizzoli 1993.
- Ratzel, Friedrich. *Anthropogeographie*. J. Engelhorn, 1883-1891.
- Rendell, Jane, Jonathan Hill, Murray Fraser, and Mark Dorrian, eds. *Critical Architecture*. Routledge, 2007.
- Rossi, Aldo. *The Architecture of the City*. MIT Press, 1982.
- Rowe, Colin. *The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa, and other Essays*. MIT Press, 1982.
- Rudofsky, Bernard. *Architecture Without Architects: an Introduction to Non-pedigreed Architecture*. Doubleday, 1964.
- Sauer, Carl Ortwin. *Land and Life: a Selection from the Writings of Carl Ortwin Sauer*. Edited by John Leighly. Univ. of California Press, 1962.
- Scott, Felicity Dale Elliston. *Architecture or Techno-Utopia: Politics after Modernism*. MIT Press, 2007.

Semple, Ellen Churchill. *Influences of Geographic Environment, on the Basis of Ratzel's System of Anthro-Geo-geography*. H. Holt & Co., 1911.

Sitte, Camillo. *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*. 1889; Random House, 1965.

Sorkin, Michael, ed. *Variations on a Theme Park: Scenes from the New American City*. FSG, 1991.

Stern, Robert A. M. *New Directions in American Architecture*. Braziller, 1977.

Tafuri, Manfredo. *Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development*. MIT Press, 1976.

—. *Theories and History of Architecture*. Harper and Rowe, 1980.

Treib, Marc, ed. *An Everyday Modernism: the Houses of William Wurster*. Univ. of California Press, 1995.

Tuan, Yi-Fu. *Topophilia: a Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values*. 1974; Columbia Univ. Press, 1990.

Upton, Dell. "Architectural History or Landscape History?" *Journal of Architectural Education* 44:4, August 1991, pp. 195-199.

Venturi, Robert, Denise Scott-Brown, and Steven Izenour. *Learning from Las Vegas: the Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form*. MIT Press, 1977.

Vidal de la Blache, Paul. *Principles of Human Geography*. 1918; H. Holt & Co., 1926.

Vidler, Anthony. *Histories of the Immediate Present: inventing Architectural Modernism*. MIT Press, 2008.

Waldheim, ed. *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.

Wilson, Chris, and Paul Groth, eds. *Everyday America: Cultural Landscape Studies after J. B. Jackson*. Univ. Of California Press, 2003.

Wölfflin, Heinrich. *Principles of Art History: the problem of the development of style in later art*. 1932; Dover, 1950.

Woodbridge, Sally, ed. *Bay Area Houses*. 1976; Peregrine, 1988.

Wright, John Kirtland. *Human Nature in Geography, 14 Papers 1925-1965*. Harvard Univ. Press, 1966.

Yale University School of Architecture. *Eisenman/Krier: Two Ideologies*. Monacelli, 2004.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE:

Week 01 Introduction

Week 02 Place I, before 1950: Townscape and the Bay Region Style

Selections from the *Architectural Review* 1949

Mumford

Gregory

Week 03 Place II, 1950s: Cultural Landscape and Vernacular Architecture

J. B. Jackson, selections

Moholy-Nagy, selections

Upton

Week 04 Autonomy I, 1950s: Colin Rowe and formalism

Rowe, selections

Vidler, Rowe chapter

Week 05 Crossings I, 1950s: Robert Venturi and Aldo Rossi

Venturi, selections

Rossi, selections

Aureli, Rossi chapter

Week 06 Place III, 1960s: Charles Moore and the Place Idea

Moore, selections

Ghenoiu

Week 07 Autonomy II, 1960s: Manfredo Tafuri and Critical Architecture

FIRST PAPERS DUE

Tafuri, selections

Vidler, Tafuri chapter

Week 08 Autonomy III, 1970s: Peter Eisenman

Eisenman, selections

Rowe, introduction to Drexler's *Five Architects*

Krauss

Hays, selections

Week 09 Crossings II, 1970s: the Whites versus the Grays

Stern, selections

Drexler, selections

Hays, selections

Week 10 Autonomy IV, 1970s: Critical Regionalism, Tschumi, Jencks

Frampton, in Hays reader

Tschumi, in Hays reader

Jencks, in Hays reader

Week 11 Place IV, 1980s: New Urbanism

Katz, selections

additional readings to be announced

Week 12 Crossings III, 1980s: Léon Krier versus Peter Eisenman

selections from Yale SOA conference, "Eisenman/Krier"

Krier, in Hays reader

Week 13 Crossings IV, 1990s: Koolhaas, SCAPE©/Junkspace/Drosscape

Koolhaas, "Junkspace," short selections on "SCAPE©"

Koolhaas, other selections

Berger, "Drosscape" in Waldheim, ed.

Week 14 Conclusion: High Line versus Techno-Utopia

Scott

Highline reading to be announced

additional reading to be announced

Week 15 STUDIO FINAL REVIEWS, no class

**Week 16 no class
FINAL PAPERS DUE**